

Hafa Adai!

No solution in sight yet for many unsolved cases. **PAGE 2**
Four schools return to full-day sessions. **PAGE 2**

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CONTRACTORS ALLEGEDLY OWED \$35M Vendors, contractors plead with CCC to act against IPI

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Representatives of many vendors and former contractors of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, who are allegedly owed \$35 million in all, showed up at yesterday's Commonwealth Election Commission meeting, to collectively appeal to the CCC to take action against IPI, whom they

» **CCC chair Sablan admits he's tired of hearing complaints against IPI**

» **Rep. Sablan says enough is enough**

accused of engaging in a pattern and practice of breaching contracts and dishonoring obligations to licensed professionals in the Commonwealth.

IPI counsel Kelley Butcher, who attended the meeting refused to comment about the

vendors' complaint and some lawmakers' statements urging
See VENDORS on Page 4

FOR JUST 3RD TIME IN HISTORY US House impeaches Trump



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., announces the passage of the first article of impeachment, abuse of power, against President Donald Trump by the House of Representatives at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2019.

AP

By **LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump was impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives Wednesday night, becoming only the third American chief executive to be formally charged under the

See TRUMP on Page 4

COCKFIGHTING BAN

'Making criminals of good people'

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

For Jay Sanchez and Ray Roberto, today's ban on cockfighting is truly a sad day not only for the CNMI but also for all the U.S. territories that look at this bloodsport as part of their culture and tradition and

See MAKING on Page 2

Saipan Tribune is 2019 Christmas Village champ

By **KIMBERLY BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune's* entry took home the first-place prize during the 2019 Lady Diann Torres Foundation's Christmas Village awarding Wednesday night at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Saipan Tribune, which made its debut in this year's Lady Diann Torres Foundation Christmas Village, took the event by storm with its

See CHAMP on Page 4

The *Saipan Tribune's* Upside Down cottage was awarded first place during the Lady Diann Torres Foundation Christmas Village awarding ceremony yesterday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



INSIDE



SUPPLEMENT

Today's *Saipan Tribune* includes a Christmas supplement, "It's A Jolly Holiday."

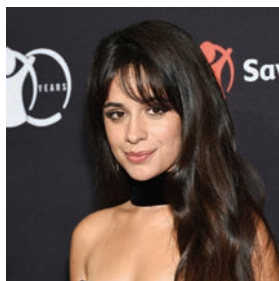
PAGE 12



ASIA

A Philippine court has found members of the Ampatuan clan guilty of a 2009 massacre.

PAGE 29



LIFE & STYLE

Pop singer Camila Cabello is apologizing for past racist language she used on social media.

PAGE 30



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Local

MAKING

From Page 1

passed on by generations of gamecock aficionados.

Both even strongly believe that criminalizing the centuries-old game is hypocritical in some ways, considering that the Commonwealth recently legalized cannabis use and the Legislature passed a casino law despite the local electorate repeatedly rejecting it in referendums.

"I think it's unfair because people of the CNMI and our representative in U.S. Congress as well as non-voting delegates from the other

U.S. territories all opposed it but they still passed the law," said Roberto, alluding to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 or the Farm Bill that made cockfighting in all U.S. jurisdictions, including in Guam and in the CNMI, illegal.

Unlike Guam and Puerto Rico, which already said they will be defying the federal ban on cockfighting, the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the CNMI Legislature have remained mum on the issue.

Sanchez even put up \$100 just to entice lawmakers to come down to his cockfighting pit along As Lito in Chalan

Kanoa and see for themselves what the islands and its people would be losing.

"I hope they [lawmakers] show up or even say something because they're so silent. I hope I see them and they do something. You know, if this was the casino they'll bend backwards but, I guess because this is not the casino, they're so silent. I guess they don't really care for something that has happened here for 400 years. They say it was introduced by the Spanish so if the Spanish were here in 1571, so since then," said Roberto, who supplies the feeds to cockfighting breeders.

He said there's actually

some parallels between cockfighting and marijuana.

"I just read that Puerto Rico just passed a bill similar to our marijuana law where they legalized cockfighting again. There's no difference really between cockfighting and marijuana. The feds say it's illegal but the states [or territories] can pass marijuana bills that turn marijuana legal. There's no difference. So, I guess they don't care for something as old and historic as that. But the casino, which is only a couple of years, they're already bending backwards for them because cockfighting doesn't bring revenue for them. They don't care,"

he added.

After today when the cockfighting ban takes effect, Roberto said there might be some who would go underground.

"Just like speeding, there's speed limits but people still go speeding. The seatbelt law requires everybody to wear their seatbelts but you see police officers still issuing tickets for those. I guess just because you passed something and made it illegal doesn't mean it's [going to] stop anything. I think people will continue to do what they've done the last 400 years," he said.

Roberto also had some choice words for those who would take advantage of the offer of a \$2,500 reward to anyone who reports an individual or set of individuals who violate the federal law.

"Whoever wants to get their \$2,500 and be a snitch, I guess you can. It's a free and democratic country, but remember that you do have to come and testify in court because whoever that defendant is and whoever you snitched on is entitled to confront their witnesses and whoever snitches must come forth and testify in court."

The reward was offered by the U.S.-based Animal Wellness Foundation and Animal Wellness Action.

For Sanchez, the ban is a double whammy of sorts; he will not only lose a sport he loves but severely hurts his livelihood as well.

"Right now, we're operating at a loss because...Super Typhoon Yutu came and just ripped this place apart. We had to rebuild. That cost an arm and a leg and already we paid the Saipan Mayor's Office \$40,000 for a license to operate."

He said cockfighting has been a part of his life for the better part of the last 35 years. "I've met some of the best people I've come across in my livelihood through this activity. Some of the best lessons I learned in my livelihood I've learned through this—responsibility, respect, camaraderie, economics, everything!"

Sanchez intimated that the CNMI can defy the federal ban due to the Covenant it signed with the U.S.

"Do we need to defy the ban? We don't! Why? Because it's legal. Right now, we have the legal right to operate. ...As stated by Saipan Local Law 9-8, Tinian Local Law 6-2, Rota Local Law 7-2. These laws make it legal for us to operate cockfighting in the CNMI. ...The Covenant was written to protect all the laws we established and the rights of the citizens of the CNMI. ...

If the Covenant gives you that right, what are you afraid of?"

Feds will enforce law

Shawn Anderson, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, said in a statement that his agency will fully enforce the cockfighting ban.

"...With the enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, Congress has effectively criminalized every aspect of the animal fighting industry nationwide. Beyond criminal enforcement of this new provision, our office may also seek civil forfeiture of any property involved in or facilitating such an offense. Courts may also order a defendant to make restitution payments for the costs of caring for seized animals."

"Federal law enforcement resources are not sufficient to permit the prosecution of every alleged offense over which federal jurisdiction exists. Some may wonder whether this crime is worth our time. Others may believe it is past time to finally act. The public should know that our office will make every effort to pursue violations of this statute within the available resources of the Department of Justice," his statement read.

Loss of income

Bogs Dayrit, who is responsible for tying the 3- to 4-inch blades on the legs of the gamecocks, said the ban is unfortunate.

He earns an extra \$120 a week from the operations of the cockfighting pit, not only for "arming" the gamecocks but also tending to the wounded fowls after a fight.

With cockfighting now illegal, he fears that those who bet in the bloodsport will now go back to playing poker or try their luck in the casino.

Henry Hofschneider, the Saipan Mayor's Office special assistant, admitted the federal prohibition will have a negative effect on their coffers.

"We will no longer have the opportunity to collect and receive the current sole license fee of \$40,000 or any amount in license fee in the future. The fee we collect have been used to support the operation of the mayor's office, e.g., equipment rental, purchase of supplies, safety gear for field operation employees, repair and maintenance of equipment, purchase of replacement parts for the office's road maintenance equipment, etc.," he said.

'More than a pastime'

Former House speaker Ralph

See MAKING on Page 4



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No solution in sight yet for many unsolved cases

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the year 2019 nearly ending, many cases that occurred this year remain un-

solved so far and the Department of Public Safety has no new updates.

The recent car accident across Puerto Rico Shell that sent one man to the Common-

wealth Health Center's intensive care unit is also still under investigation, according to a press release from DPS last Wednesday.

DPS is investigating whether speed was a factor in the accident but confirms that there was no alcohol involved. The man, who remains unnamed, was reportedly still in critical condition as of 10:21am yesterday.

The double homicide of Li Na Lim and Linhua Cui last Dec. 13 in San Antonio also remains open and is still pending further investigation, DPS has yet to report any new de-

velopments on the case.

Lim, the owner of the Rice Cake Best Food Restaurant in San Antonio, and her employee Cui were both found dead inside the establishment and police have yet to report any suspects. They were both shot dead.

Last Nov. 26, Florita Arbas Rivera went missing without a trace. The only remnants of her were her cellphone and keys that were left on her kitchen table in her home, along with a note asking her loved ones to pray for her. Police have no new leads on her whereabouts.

The case of the dead, de-

composing body found at the Bird Island beach back in Nov. 25 also still remains a mystery. DPS has yet to release any new updates on the body and whether an autopsy was conducted.

Last Oct. 26, a car was driven off of Banzai Cliff and the driver remains missing. The search for the driver of the vehicle was called off on Oct. 29 and police have yet to release any new updates on the case.

For anyone who may have information that could lead to developments on these unresolved cases in the CNMI, feel free to call 911.

Torres signs four bills into law

By **IVA MAURIN**
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed into law four bills yesterday, as witnessed by Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, House floor leader John Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan), and Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.

First of these bills is Senate Bill 21-2, SD1, HD1, authored by Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan), and now Public Law 21-13, which names the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Diabetes Care and Control Center as a program recipient of the Tobacco Control Fund.

This law corrects the text in Public Law 13-38, which states that only the "Department of Public Health" is eligible to draw from the fund. The "Department of Public Health" was later renamed to what is now known as CHCC.

In addition, the law also awards eligibility to the program activities of the Diabetes Care and Control Center to obtain funding.

The second bill signed, S.B. 21-3, SD1, HD1, authored by Sen. Sixto K. Igi-somar (R-Saipan), and now

P.L. 21-14, adopts the International Building Code as the CNMI's official building code.

The new law would require the Building Safety Code Division of the Department of Public Works to adopt the IBC. At present, the CNMI is still using the 2009 version of the building code as established by the International Conference of Building Officials.

Third signed into law is S.B. 21-10, SD1, authored by Cruz, and now P.L. 21-15.

The new law mandates the Department of Public Lands to issue within 45 days the deed for homesteads that are awarded to homesteaders who have complied with the laws and regulations pertaining to homesteads.

The new law cuts the length of time homesteaders who received homestead lots without infrastructure to receive their deeds. At most, homesteaders receive their deeds after five years, three years after the date of entry and up to two years for the issuance of the deed.

Last is House Local Bill 21-33, authored by Sablan, and now Saipan Local Law 21-11, amends the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

Four schools return to full-day sessions

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System will restore full day sessions at four of eight schools that have been on half-day session since the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu over a year ago.

During an interview with Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada last Wednesday, he confirmed that Oleai Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, Francisco M. Sablan, and Koblerville Elementary School will return to full-day sessions af-

ter the Christmas break and when students return to school on Jan. 6.

Ada said that these schools underwent repairs since the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu and the repairs are set to be complete or nearly complete come January.

Dandan Middle School, one of the schools that sustained major damages and had to go into half-day session too, returned to their full session schedule in the first week of December, according to a source.

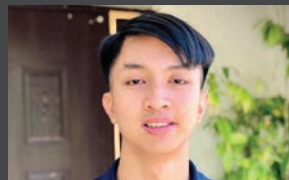
Kagman High School, Cha-

cha Oceanview Middle School, and William S. Reyes Elementary School, however, will remain on half-day sessions because they sustained the most damage following Yutu.

Ada said that KHS, which initially had electrical issues due to a busted transformer, had deeper underlying issues regarding plumbing. Ada elaborated that the school's electrical line and water line are close to one another and poses a threat to the students.

Ada is still unsure when the remaining schools will return to full-day sessions.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 16th birthday, KC! We hope that your birthday is going to be blessed with all the joy and health that God can give you. May your day be amazing as the person that you are to us. We love you! Greetings come from your family. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

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VENDORS

From Page 1

CCC to take action against IPI.

Colin M. Thompson, who is the lawyer of a former IPI contractor, Pacific Rim Land Development LLC, spoke on behalf of the vendors/contractors before the commission during the public comment portion of the meeting, which was held at CCC's conference room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai.

Thompson, who read the vendors'/contractors' joint letter that was addressed to the CCC commissioners and executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero, said that each of the service providers that signed the letter was injured by IPI's wrongful conduct.

"Collectively, we seek action on our complaint by this commission," the lawyer said, reading the letter.

Thompson said that, pursuant to CNMI law, the CCC is empowered to hold hearings on violations of its regulations.

Under CCC regulations, Thompson said, it is a violation for IPI to engage in unsuitable methods of operation, and breach of contract is expressly listed in the regulations is one such violation.

Thompson said that IPI breaching its contracts with all businesses listed in the letter of appeal shows that IPI engages in unsuitable methods of operation, which deserves CCC's scrutiny and discipline.

Thompson said each of the signatory to the letter are service providers and are licensed to do business in the CNMI—many of whom have been in business for over a decade.

"Each company entered into an agreement with IPI to provide materials and/or services, and each company was damaged by IPI's breach of its commitment," he said.

Thompson said some have decided to file actions in courts, while others are still pleading with IPI to pay amounts that are owed.

He said in every case, and especially given their numerosity, IPI's unsuitable method of operation reflects discredit upon the CNMI and its gaming industry.

Such activity, the lawyer said, "shall be grounds for disciplinary action by the commission."

Rep. Christina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), who, along with Reps. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) and Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan), spoke during the public comments portion, said the commissioners should show that they are not compromised by enforcing the laws and the casino license and make IPI comply.

If IPI is unable or unwilling to comply, CCC should revoke the casino license, Sablan added.

"Pave the way for a new bidding process with developers who are in a better position to improve and complete this project, and who would respect our laws, our contracts, our workers, our cultures, and our environment," she said.

The lawmaker said there must be consequences when laws are violated. "We are under no obligation to continue to do business with bad actors," she said.

Sablan pointed out that IPI vendors

are collectively owed \$34 million according to an audited financial statement of 2018. She said IPI is chronically delinquent in its payments.

She said many of these vendors are small businesses struggling to keep afloat—and they are basically financing what was supposed to be a billion-dollar project.

The lawmaker said CCC members have an obligation to help these businesses get paid.

Sablan said CCC members also have an obligation to look out for the workers.

"We have seen a litany of labor violations: unsafe working conditions, at least one death, over 80 documented workplace injuries, illegal employment of tourists, workers suing for forced labor, human trafficking, injuries for which they were never compensated, sexual harassment, discrimination, contracts have been abruptly terminated, and lives disrupted," she said.

Sablan said these are human beings and IPI treat their employees like they're disposable.

"And that's wrong. And it's wrong to allow them continue to do so," Sablan said.

She also cited rumors that the reason why CCC does not exert its authority is because they are inherently compromised, that some of the commissioners may have financial interests tied to IPI. If true, that would be a violation of their code of conduct and the law, and would require automatic forfeiture of their commission membership.

"Because of the nature of this industry, because of the propensity for corruption, the commissioners must be of unimpeachable integrity. Above reproach. No conflicts or even the appearance of conflicts," Sablan said.

The lawmaker noted the departure of Phillip Tydingco as IPI's general counsel and Chuck McDonald as one of IPI's counsel, and other many key managers, and the resignation of Mark Brown as interim chief executive officer, and other board members.

She said it is also her understanding that most, if not all, the staff in IPI's compliance section have also resigned.

"So, who's left? Who's calling the shots? Who's making sure that suspicious activities are being reported?" asked Sablan, adding that this should be an urgent priority, especially in the wake of recent Federal Bureau of Investigation raids on the casino, and allegations of money laundering, fraud, and public corruption.

"Members of the commission, at what point do we say, enough is enough?" she said.

Sablan said in the midst of a fragile economy and a cash-strapped government, there is a casino that owes the Commonwealth tens of millions of dollar in Business Gross Revenue Tax, corporate income taxes, and developer's taxes and is seeking ways to avoid paying any taxes for years to come.

Former CNMI Zoning Board chair Diego Blanco asked CCC why they are tolerating IPI in not paying vendors millions of dollars.

"This is Saipan. They cannot just come in here and treat us like dogs!" Blanco said.

Blanco said he does not know who

is running IPI now as everybody has resigned.

Blanco said CCC should not keep tolerating IPI and instead revoke its license.

As Steve Zuo, a principal of the Sardini Group Inc. USA, was telling the commission about his unpaid work as a designer of the casino, Blanco stood up and told the commissioners that IPI owes Zuo over a million dollars.

Before members of the public were allowed to speak, CCC chair Juan M. Sablan noted that he received a letter from a vendor complaining about IPI not paying for services.

Sablan said CCC has to start addressing some of the issues in detail next month.

He said that if IPI does not comply, then they will penalize or sanction them.

"I think we should do that because we are about five years [into this] and we're still hearing noncompliance," the chairman said, noting that federal laws and some local laws or regulations may have been violated.

Sablan asked CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero to make a record of the potential imposition of sanctions

"Every month we have been hearing this. ...I'm getting tired. I don't know about the other commissioners, but it's about time that we take our teeth together and work hard," CCC chair Sablan said.

Deleon Guerrero said he wants to put it on the record that it's not like that they don't sanction IPI. He said the CCC has been sanctioning IPI but that some of the issues that were raised in the letter are currently being negotiated with the appropriate entity.

Deleon Guerrero disclosed there are actually ongoing investigation that they have been doing on alleged violations, but that they have to keep the commissioners out because they will be functioning in the appeals and that they should not lose their authority to conduct an impartial review.

When asked later about the vendors' complaint, Deleon Guerrero said every vendor must understand that there's different performance contracts between the different vendors and IPI.

"Several vendors have claimed that they were not paid as they agreed upon," he said, adding that he is also aware that IPI has brought several of these vendors to court for various reasons.

He said the commission should not preempt the judicial process as IPI and the vendors are going into litigation.

At this point, though, he said the CCC is happy that the vendors brought this thing to its attention. Deleon Guerrero said there is a process for the vendors to collect what is owed and that's the judiciary process.

"We let the courts resolve the issue before we make any final decision," he said.

Aside from Pacific Rim, the other complaining vendors/contractors are Canaan Realty (Tang's Corp.), Ms. Chong of Unicorn Corp., Ripon Ahmed of GT Building System, Da Bao Corp., Red Coral Corp., Pingshun Corp., Plumeria Corp., AYD Services Inc., Artman, Winzy Corp., Mr. Kim of DKK, Kim Corp., USA Fan-

ther, Addison Global Interiors or AGI Stone Design, Yantze Corp. Ronghua Corp. Fritz Pacific, Kehong Engineering, Fujitech Elevator Corp., JN Saipan Security, Ronghua Corp.,

TRUMP

From Page 1

Constitution's ultimate remedy for high crimes and misdemeanors.

The historic vote split along party lines, much the way it has divided the nation, over a charge that the 45th president abused the power of his office by enlisting a foreign government to investigate a political rival ahead of the 2020 election. The House then approved a second charge, that he obstructed Congress in its investigation.

The articles of impeachment, the political equivalent of an indictment, now go to the Senate for trial. If Trump is acquitted by the Republican-led chamber, as expected, he still would have to run for reelection carrying the enduring stain of impeachment on his purposely disruptive presidency.

"The president is impeached," Pelosi declared after the vote. She called it "great day for the Constitution of the United States, a sad one for America that the president's reckless activities necessitated us having to introduce articles of impeachment."

Trump, who began Wednesday

Fritz Pacific, Kehong Engineering, Fujitech Elevator Corp., JN Saipan Security, GPPC, Tropical Landscaping, Dong Fang Trading Corp., Hong He Hardware, and Sardini Group Inc.

tweeting his anger at the proceedings, pumped his fist before an evening campaign rally in Battle Creek, Michigan, boasting of "tremendous support" in the Republican Party.

"By the way," he told the crowd, "it doesn't feel like I'm being impeached."

The mood in the House chamber shifted throughout the day as the lawmakers pushed toward the vote. Democrats spun lofty speeches, framing impeachment as what many said was their duty to protect the Constitution and uphold the nation's system of checks and balances. Republicans mocked and jeered the proceedings, as they stood by their party's leader, who has frequently tested the bounds of civic norms.

The start of Trump's Michigan rally was delayed as the voting was underway in Washington but once he took the stage he boasted of accomplishments and complained bitterly about his foes for two hours, defiant rather than contrite. He called Pelosi names and warned the impeachment would be politically disastrous for Democrats. He has called the whole affair a "witch hunt," a "hoax" and a "sham," and sometimes all three.

MAKING

From Page 2

Demapan laments the death of cockfighting in the CNMI and the territories of Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, citing its role in the local culture and history. Saying it's one of the few local practices "still passed down by our elders today."

He said many of the islands' local families pass on years of cockfighting secrets, traditions, and also superstition to the next generation, "so it's more than just a pastime entertainment or sport."

Demapan asserted that cockfighting is well regulated by the local government and respected not only by many of the indigenous people but also a large segment of the Filipino community.

CHAMP

From Page 1

unique, Upside Down Christmas concept, earning them the first-place trophy along with a \$400 cash prize.

Torres said in an interview that *Saipan Tribune's* concept for their cottage was new, different, and unique and they deserved the win.

Following *Saipan Tribune* in second place was the former reigning champion, the Saipan Mayor's Office, whose Lego House also won it a \$300 cash prize.

In third place was the Department of Correction's igloo cottage. The department took home a cash prize of \$150.

The People's Choice award was given to Department of Public Works for the number of votes received from members of the community. They

"Unfortunately, such a ban will inevitably result in underground and illegal cockfighting activities," he said.

By criminalizing cockfighting in the CNMI, the federal government will be making outlaws of law-abiding citizens, Sanchez said. He said it was only a few years ago that local lawmakers passed a law that made the exact opposite of marijuana users.

"I think this ban is going to make criminals of good people. Last year we passed the cannabis law and we made good people out of criminals... And now because of this ban, now you catch any of this people at a chicken fight, you catch them holding their gamecocks or flushing gamecocks together, the slightest thing... sometimes they get you by just ownership. You're gonna make criminals out of them."

were awarded a \$150 cash prize.

According to Torres, although the village was much smaller compared to the last Christmas Village, she still thinks the village turned out great and is happy that businesses and departments still decided to participate despite the many events going on in the community.

"We had a little bit less than two years ago but it was still a good turnout. We had 23 this year and two years ago, we had 29. We had some companies pull out because there was a lot of things going on in the community and were busy with their own thing," she said.

The Lady Diann Torres Christmas village will be open until Jan. 6 and it will be open every day from 6pm to 9pm on weekdays. On the weekends, the village will be open from 6pm to 11pm.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
The Northern Marianas College was able to collect over 100 toys for the 3rd Annual Toys for Tots donation drive organized by Saipan Young Professionals and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. This is the college's second year as a sponsor of the program.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-DPW/EN-021

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 06, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**“LEASE OF ONE (1) CLASS “F” VEHICLE FOR
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF
PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE,
ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725
AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS
THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE
CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ THELMA B. INOS
DIRECTOR OF DPW/ENERGY

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP20-CHCC/HEMODIALYSIS-002

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 20, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM

“FULL AUTOMATION & INTEGRATION OF EMR SYSTEM”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FROM THE CHCC
WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **RFP's** TAB ON THE BOTTOM
NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO
ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY
IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC.
ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH
HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP20-CHCC/RESPIRATORY CARE-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 20, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM

**“FOUR (4) PURITAN BENNETT 980 VENTILATORS &
FISHER & PAYKEL 850 HUMIDIFIER BASE & STARTER KIT”**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FROM THE CHCC
WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **RFP's** TAB ON THE BOTTOM
NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO
ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY
IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC.
ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH
HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

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8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



ROBERT TENORIO TORRES, F0197
ATTORNEY AT LAW
PLATA DRIVE, WHISPERING PALMS (CHALAN KIYA)
P.O. BOX 503758 CK
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-7859
FACSIMILE: (670) 234-5749

CIVILLE & TANG, PLLC
SIRENA PEREZ CASSIDY, F0338
330 HERNAN CORTEZ AVENUE, SUITE 200
HAGATNA, GUAM 96910
TELEPHONE: (671) 472-8869/69
FACSIMILE: (671) 477-2511

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ANZ GUAM, INC.,
formerly known as
CITIZENS SECURITY
BANKS (GUAM), INC.,

Civil Action
No. 00-0296 D

Plaintiff,
vs.

JESUS T. LIZAMA dba
VICTORIA HOTEL,
J&JEV ENTERPRISES,
INC., and the
BANK OF GUAM,

Defendants.

(FOURTH AMENDED)
NOTICE OF AUCTION
and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the Amended Judgment made and entered in the above titled action on 30th day of January, 2001, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff ANZ GUAM, INC., formerly known as CITIZENS SECURITY BANK (GUAM), INC. ("ANZ"), in the above titled action from Defendants JESUS T. LIZAMA DBA VICTORIA HOTEL AND J&JEV ENTERPRISES, INC., as prescribed in the Order Directing Foreclosure Sale of Mortgaged Property filed on February 13, 2013, pursuant to 7 CMC § 4537(e) the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **16th day of January, 2020 at 10 a.m.**, at Victoria Hotel, located on Micro Beach Rd, Garapan, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

PARCELS 1 & 2:

a. LOT 001 D 13, (formerly known as Block 3, Lot 1), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 D 00, the original of which was registered 30 SEP 70 as Document No. 512 at Land Registry, Saipan.

b. LOT 001 D 14, (formerly known as Block 3, Lot 2), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 D 00, the original of which was registered 30 SEP 70 as Document No. 512 at Land Registry, Saipan.

And immediately thereafter, the sale of the following parcel of property:

PARCEL 3:

c. TRACT 21732-9, part of original Tract 21732-R1, AH 140), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2085/84, the original of which was recorded 08 AUG 84 as Document No. 84-1439 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- Withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
- To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. All the property listed in this notice shall be sold to the highest bidder at a public auction, without any warranty being given, express or implied, with respect to the title, possession, and encumbrances, to satisfy the amount due to Plaintiff ANZ GUAM, INC. on the date of the sale under the Amended Judgment as prescribed in the Order Directing Foreclosure Sale of Mortgaged Property. ANZ GUAM, INC. reserves the right to bid all or part of the amount due at the time of the sale.

3. Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by the successful bidder. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Plaintiff, ANZ GUAM, INC., formerly known as CITIZENS SECURITY BANK (GUAM), INC.

4. Inspection. Interested bidders may inspect the property at the following times:

Parcels 1 & 2: January 9, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.
Parcel 3: January 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

5. Change of Terms. ANZ GUAM, INC., reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

6. No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 17th day of December 2019.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Skymark Night at Christmas in the Marianas on Dec. 21

To mark the start of direct daily flights from Japan to Saipan last month by Skymark Airlines Inc., the Marianas Visitors Authority and organizers of Christmas in the Marianas will celebrate Skymark Night tomorrow, Dec. 21.

The evening will be highlighted by raffle drawings for three roundtrip tickets for two between Saipan and Tokyo.

A free raffle ticket is available with minimum purchase at the following establishments: The Old B Bank, I Love Saipan, Furusato Restaurant, ABC Store, Kinpachi Restaurant, Umibouzu, Moby

Dick, Zen Restaurant, and Country House.

The festivities kick off at 6pm at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan with a Japan group performance, followed by Man Antigo and Domatsuri Warriors at 6:25pm The first of three raffles will be held at 6:45pm, and again at 7:45pm and at the end of the night. The Japan group will perform again at 6:55pm and 9:05pm. Other entertainment includes Philippines Traditional and Contemporary Dance/Saipan Music & Dance Studio at 7:25pm, Department of Public Safety Blues at 8:15pm, and

Studio 29:11 at 8:40pm.

Entries for the Skymark Night Plane Contest will be on display, and the winners will be announced at 8pm. First place will be awarded \$500, second place will receive \$300, and third place will receive \$200. Winners will also receive MVA giveaways.

Last Saturday, Dec. 14, featured the Christmas Parade of Floats through downtown Garapan. Winners of various school contests were awarded, including Dandan Elementary School for the Christmas Tree Decorating Contest, San Vicente Elementary School

for Elementary Caroling Contest, Agape Christian Middle School for Middle & Agape Christian High School High School Caroling Contest, and Koblerville Elementary School for Christmas Parade of Lights Costume Contest. All other participating schools also received prizes.

The holiday celebration features live entertainment, food sales, arts and crafts, and more and is being held every Saturday throughout the month from 6pm to 10pm and is organized by the MVA, PDM Promoters, Inc., Team PDI, and other travel partners. The pedestrian mall in Saipan's main tourist district is illuminated nightly with the official Christmas tree and trees decorated by local schools. The school trees, decorated with recyclable material, will remain on display through New Year's.

The final evening on Dec. 28 will be highlighted by another Saipan Awaodori team performance and annual Mo-chitsuki Festival, a Japanese holiday featuring the pounding of "mochi" (glutinous rice) for the new year. Holiday Rock'n in American Sign Language and other entertainers will fill the rest of the evening.

Participating food and drink vendors are Kinpachi, Furusato, Lyn's BBQ, and Java Joe's. Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority shuttle service will be provided from American Memorial Park parking lot to Paseo de Marianas beginning at 5pm (last shuttle at 9:30pm) and from Paseo de Marianas crosswalk across from Fiesta Resort & Spa Spa to American Memorial Park beginning at 5:10pm (last shuttle at 9:40pm) every 15 minutes. **(PR)**

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN
MARIANAS
HOUSING
CORPORATION,
Plaintiff

IRENE DANIEL S.
SIGRAH and
BILL J. SIRAH,
Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION
NO. 16-0002

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 10, 2017, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property: Lot no. 011 G 1368, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 874 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check no. 011 G 25, dated December 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 96-2568, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Total area of the property: 874 square meters, more or less

Known encumbrances: none.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 3, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. A copy of a title insurance report for the property is available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 6th day of November, 2019:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE
MATTER OF
THE ESTATE
OF
DOROTHEA
ITIBUS ILO,
Deceased.

Civil Action
No. 19-0334

NOTICE OF HEARING
ON PETITION FOR
LETTERS OF
ADMINISTRATION
and NOTICE TO
CREDITORS

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF: DOROTHEA ITIBUS ILO, DECEASED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of RYAN RAY ILO for the issuance of Letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 9th day of January, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, DOROTHEA ITIBUS ILO, or of her estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 5th day of December, 2019.

/s/ Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Petitioner Sepe James Benavente

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE ESTATE
OF JOHN
SULLIVAN
BENAVENTE,
Deceased.

Civil Action
No. 19-0367-CV

NOTICE OF HEARING AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Date: Thursday, January 9, 2020
Time: 10:00 am
Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JOHN SULLIVAN BENAVENTE OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sepe James Benavente has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of John Sullivan Benavente, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is **Charity R. Hodson**, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **CHARITY R. HODSON, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.**

Dated this 13th day of December, 2019.
/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315



NOTICE OF APPLICATION As of December 20, 2019

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation	11/26/2019 SPI-2020-X-012	Power Plant 4 Drainage Improvements	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 12/10/2019
2. JB International Holding, Limited dba Uncle J Dive	12/06/2019 SLR-2020-X-013	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation & Instruction	Obyan, Lau Lau, & Grotto	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
3. JKL Corporation dba Scuba Company Saipan	12/12/2019 STLR-2020-X-014	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation & Instruction	All designated Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
4. Department of Public Works	12/13/2019 SSWm-2020-X-015	Island Wide Emergency Repair, Traffic Signs & Pavement Markings	Island Wide, Saipan	Shoreline, Wetland	Under Review*
5. Department of Public Works	12/13/2019 SS-2020-X-016	Island Wide Emergency Repair of Concrete Pathway	Island Wide, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*
6. Department of Public Works	12/13/2019 SW-2020-X-017	Route 35 (Chalan Tun Herman Pan Road Improvement)	Tun Herman Pan Road, Saipan	Wetland	Under Review*
7. Tinian Hairui Real Estate Co., LLC dba Xingsha Hotel	03/15/2019 TMS-2019-X-020	Xingsha Hotel	San Jose, Tinian	Major-Siting	Approved*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.



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 <p>2015 NISSAN NV200 S STOCK # FK692305 FWD, 4-Cyl, 2.0 L, Auto, CVT Xtronic Est. Mileage: 49,406, Color: WHITE</p> <p>\$14,995</p>	 <p>2015 NISSAN ALTIMA SV STOCK # FC475899 FWD, 2.5 L 4CYL, AUTO Xtronic Est. Mileage: 23,048, Color: SILVER</p> <p>\$15,700</p>	 <p>2016 NISSAN FRONTIER KCAB S STOCK # GN724310 2WD, 4-Cyl, 2.5 L, Auto, 5-Spd Est. Mileage: 28,890, Color: SILVER</p> <p>\$16,995</p>	 <p>2016 KIA SEDONA STOCK # G6225206 FWD, V6, 3.3 Liter, Auto, 6-Spd OD Sportmatic Est. Mileage: 53,977, WHITE</p> <p>\$17,695</p>	 <p>2019 NISSAN SENTRA S STOCK # KY207521 FWD, 4-Cyl, 1.8 L, AutoXtronic Est. Mileage: 6,186, Color: WHITE</p> <p>\$18,695</p>
 <p>2019 NISSAN SENTRA S STOCK # KY207171 FWD, 4-Cyl, 1.8 L, AutoXtronic Est. Mileage: 4,672, Color: SILVER</p> <p>\$18,895</p>	 <p>2013 NISSAN PATHFINDER S STOCK # DC676044 4WD, V6, 3.5 Liter, Auto, CVT Est. Mileage: 27,121, Color: WHITE</p> <p>\$18,995</p>	 <p>2016 HONDA HRV EX STOCK # GM736015 2WD, 4-Cyl, i-VTEC, 1.8 L, Auto Est. Mileage: 16,829, GRAY</p> <p>\$19,395</p>	 <p>2015 NISSAN QUEST SV STOCK # F9132367 FWD, 3.5 L V6, Automatic, CVT Est. Mileage: 10,208, Color: Brilliant Silver</p> <p>\$19,495</p>	 <p>2017 HONDA CIVIC HBACK SPORT STOCK # HJ544474 FWD, 4-Cyl, Turbo, 1.5 L, Auto, CVT Est. Mileage: 32,769, Color: GRAY</p> <p>\$19,995</p>
 <p>2018 HONDA HRV LX STOCK # JM719044 FWD, i-VTEC, 1.8 L, Auto, CVT Est. Mileage: 6298, BLUE</p> <p>\$19,995</p>	 <p>2017 NISSAN ROGUE SV STOCK # HW380800 FWD, 4 CYL 2.5 L, AUTO CVT Est. Mileage: 19,988, Color: RED</p> <p>\$19,995</p>	 <p>2017 NISSAN ROGUE SV STOCK # HW381082 FWD, 4 CYL 2.5 L, AUTO CVT Est. Mileage: 28,244, Color: GREEN</p> <p>\$19,995</p>	 <p>2015 NISSAN QUEST SV STOCK # F9126235 FWD, V6, 3.5 Liter, Automatic, CVT Est. Mileage: 22,600, Color: SILVER</p> <p>\$20,795</p>	 <p>2017 KIA SPORTAGE LX STOCK # H7293333 AWD, 4 CYL 2.4 GDI, AUTO Est. Mileage: 8,200, Color: PEARL SNOW WHITE</p> <p>\$20,995</p>
 <p>2017 HONDA ACCORD LX STOCK # HA142666 FWD, 4 CYL i-Vtec 2.4L, AUTO Est. Mileage: 7,888, Color: WHITE</p> <p>\$20,995</p>	 <p>2019 KIA SOUL SX STOCK # K7691090, FWD, 4-Cyl, Turbo, 1.6 Liter, Automatic, 7-Spd w/Dual-Clutch & Sportmatic Est. Mileage: 5,009, Color: WHITE</p> <p>\$22,695</p>	 <p>2016 KIA CADENZA PREMIUM STOCK # G5200548 FWD, V6, GDI, 3.3 Liter, 6-Spd OD Sprmtc Est. Mileage: 14,688, Color: WHITE</p> <p>\$22,995</p>	 <p>2017 NISSAN TITAN S STOCK # HN550235 4WD, 5.6L V8, Auto 7 spd Est. Mileage: 10,333, Color: White</p> <p>\$24,995</p>	 <p>2017 KIA SEDONA EX STOCK # H6343505 FWD, V6, 3.3 Liter, Auto, 6-Spd OD Sportmatic Est. Mileage: 32,428, Color: GRAY</p> <p>\$24,995</p>
 <p>2015 NISSAN PATHFINDER PLATINUM STOCK # FC649617 AWD, V6, 3.5 Liter, Auto, CVT Est. Mileage: 10,888, Color: BLUE</p> <p>\$25,995</p>	 <p>2015 NISSAN MURANO SL STOCK # FN201193 AWD, V6, 3.5 L, Auto, CVT Est. Mileage: 11,988, Color: WHITE</p> <p>\$26,995</p>	 <p>2018 FORD F-150 REGULAR CAB XL STOCK # HFB15243 2WD, V6, Flex Fuel, 3.3 L, Auto, 6-Spd SelectShift Est. Mileage: 8,546, Color: SILVER</p> <p>\$26,995</p>	 <p>2016 FORD F-150 XL REG CAB STOCK # GKF37860 RWD, 3.5L V6, Automatic Est. Mileage: 6,800, Color: Oxford White</p> <p>\$26,995</p>	 <p>2018 HONDA ACCORD TOURING STOCK # JA084004 FWD, i-VTEC Turbo 1.5 L, AUTO 10 SPEED Est. Mileage: 12,118, Color: GRAY</p> <p>\$29,995</p>

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Support independent local journalism

The devastating business struggles of American journalism, especially local newspapers, strand much of the country without functional news coverage.

Large newspaper chains without the roots and sense of duty of local ownership ran wild, consolidating the news business over decades. Now the private equity firms that lent money to grow the chains are seizing control and often cutting staff even more.

In an earlier era, the Federal Communications Commission helped safeguard local journalism. An FCC rule created in 1975 blocked the same owner from running a daily newspaper and television station in the same city. This rule helped preserve what the FCC's chair at the time called "viewpoint diversity." Today's FCC acts as an accomplice in perverting that rule to enable more finance-sector ownership of local media.

The Cox family company's \$3.1 billion sale of its media holdings to Apollo Global Management, a private equity business, included several Ohio newspapers and broadcasters that operated in the same cities. Cox had been grandfathered in as a cross-owner, but the sale triggered the prohibition. Rather than drop the deal, Apollo notified the FCC it would reduce the Dayton Daily News and two other newspapers to printing three days a week. The FCC should have blocked this deal. Instead, it signed off.

Local journalism needs and deserves better protection from finance-sector exploitation. Newspaper cutbacks and closures dot the landscape. News deserts have emerged in communities across America, where city and county governments' actions go unreported.

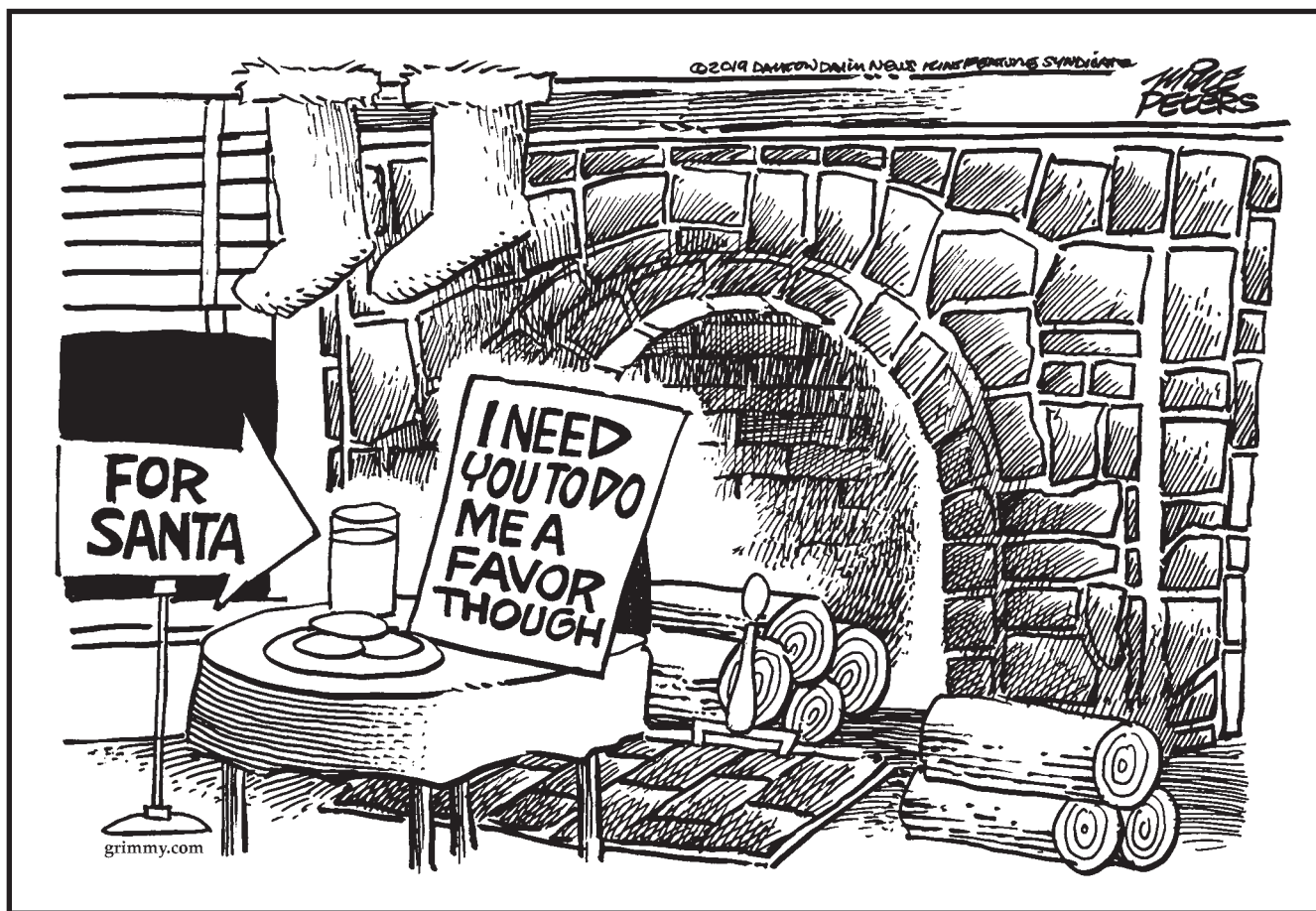
In the past six months alone, five Washington daily newspapers—in Bellingham, Tacoma, Olympia, the Tri-Cities and Vancouver—announced plans to print only six days a week to cut costs. The first four are owned by the McClatchy Corporation, a newspaper chain near bankruptcy. Nationally, hundreds of Tribune Publishing journalists are petitioning for a new owner to rescue the company from a potential takeover by the newspaper-slashing Alden Global Capital. In July, Alden could expand its holdings to take control of Tribune's landmark newspapers, including the Chicago Tribune, Baltimore Sun and New York Daily News.

Yet, against this bleak landscape, there is strong evidence that local journalism can survive and thrive.

Last week, the nonprofit Poynter Institute described several ways independent regional newspapers—including the one you're reading—have evolved to meet the challenges of the online era.

Nonprofits operate daily newspapers in Philadelphia, Tampa and elsewhere. Report for America grants pay for reporters to cover neglected topics in diminished newsrooms nationwide. Much of the industry has adopted a business model that relies on subscription sales to replace advertising revenues. And the use of philanthropy to fund specific projects, such as the Times' investigative, traffic, homelessness and education teams, is on the rise.

These successes show that America's free press is sustainable—with robust, community-rooted support.

See **SUPPORT** on Next Page

Managaha's new management

A few months ago (August 2019) the column made mention of a new concessionaire having been named to manage our tourism and cultural jewel, Managaha Island. I both thanked and praised Tasi Tours for the great job they had done over the years and welcomed, as it turns out prematurely, U-Top.

For 30 years, Tasi Tours had developed, properly maintained, improved and protected our jewel in the Saipan Lagoon. For several of those most recent years, Tasi has been complaining that they have been losing large amounts of money on the Managaha concession. In part this is because the contract terms have been violated that gave Tasi the exclusive right to sell water sports activities and act as a tour departure/arrival staging site on the island. Those right are supposed to be guaranteed to them to help offset the large cash outlay it takes to improve and maintain the infrastructure on Managaha in the face of a hostile saltwater environment.

To understand why, you, dear reader, need to know that Japanese tour agencies and their guides are exceptionally well-organized. An umbrella organization called JSTA (Japan Saipan Travel Association), pronounced Jas' - ta, meets monthly, coordinated a plethora of local events, and helps smooth the inevitable bumps in the road that occur when honestly competing firms try to coordinate their efforts so as to maximize what they do to improve the marketplace. I have attended many of these and found them very instructional and well-thought-out. (Likewise, the Korean tour agents have a similar organization called KTAS).

The Chinese tour agents and their ever-changing guides have no such organization. It is a cultural difference in the nature of competitiveness of the two countries. Chinese competition is more of a dog-eat-dog competition to attract the most customers even if it means taking them away from their competitor's very doorway. It is closely akin to the American way of free enterprise, allowing the best and most innovative business to move to the forefront of an industry by virtue of its competitiveness and effective brand exposure, but with a vengeance.

You can already see where this is going. Since the advent of larger and larger scale Chinese tourism here, the market for these "optional tours" has fragmented and, of course, the Chinese speaking tourists gravitate toward agents with guides that speak their own language, much as do the Korean and Japanese visitors. The upshot is that the ultra-competitive Chinese guides find ways around the watersports contract terms, leaving Tasi to swing in the wind for the large amounts of money it takes to properly maintain Managaha.

Now we find out that DPL is, according to U-Top, giving them the "runaround" and delaying the management transfer from Tasi Tours to U-Top by nearly six months so far, with no end in sight. The contracts were signed in August, the \$360,000 first

By **BRUCE BATEMAN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman resides on Saipan with a wife, a son, and an unknown number of boonie dogs. He has owned and operated a number of unusual businesses and most recently worked as the marketing manager for MVA. Bruce likes to read, travel, tinker with bicycles, hike, swim, and play a bit of golf. He is opinionated and writes when the moon is full and the mood strikes.



year's fee to DPL for the concession has been paid. The transition to U-top was supposed to take between 90 to 120 days, according to DPL's Marianne Teregeyo, but hasn't even begun yet, according to U-Top.

This is the same kind of bungling bureaucratic boondoggery from DPL that leaves us with an empty and decaying Mariana Resort after failing to write a lease for the winning RFP respondent that was supposed to manage the place for a year. The property is not exactly appreciating at this point, is it? No, it's not. How much longer before the Mariana Resort looks like the La Fiesta Mall? How long will Tasi Tours continue on a month-to-month basis managing Managaha? It depends in both cases on DPL doing its job in a businesslike manner.

Sure, we run a "business friendly" government. The pigs with wings are lining up at the starting line.

Cruise ships

Cruising brings a different kind of visitor than is usual in the CNMI. They are typically high-spending tourists who stay only for one day and often take expensive optional historic or cultural tours to complement their onshore shopping sprees. This type of customer sounds good and the money they generate works well to augment the income streams of island ports of call in the Caribbean and around the world.

We see a small number of cruise ships touch port here, ranging from smaller regional cruisers and bigger Japanese ships that have returned annually for many years up to and including a visit from the huge new Cunard Line *Queen Victoria* on its inaugural world cruise. It brings in a fair amount of income and has minimal impact on our water, sewer, electricity and other resources. Too little to suit many of the decision makers here on Saipan.

For years, the board of directors for MVA has seen hoteliers overrepresented in their number and hotel owner/operators typically view a cruise ship customer as a lost opportunity since they stay overnight aboard the ship, not at a hotel. The idea that seems to work elsewhere works here too, that a cruise ship customer

See **MANAGHA** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Felis noche buena!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



The joy of the season is here. It's in the faces of folks we meet daily. Their smile says it all: *Felis noche buena!*

In the meantime, I keep an ear on the baseless impeachment inquisition in D.C. by the Democrats headed by Speaker Nancy Pelosi. She's convicted Trump with personal opinions, a tyrannical witchhunt that has begun fading into the ash heap of history.

Isn't it the 63 million voters who placed the Donald in the WH? Could their rightful expression be nullified by shallow legislative procedure riddled with hyperbolic screed?

Of course, the 2020 presidential race is central an issue, hence his nemesis would find ways to trip the Donald. His successes on the national economy translating into more jobs and higher pay make countering his accomplishments difficult.

I use this period for meditative renewal to reset buttons on a personal and spiritual basis. It's the anchor that holds my boat close to shore. Blessed, I look forward with confidence and commitment to meet daily challenges. *Felis noche buena yan año nuebu!*

Tough

We may be poor but not relegated into the miseries of poverty as defined by federal regulations.

In other words, life on an island is simple and our way of life ensures we take care of one another in helpful ways. Whether we work as farmers or fishermen, that grand sense of extending a helping is prominent in our culture.

Indeed, a major shift entered when government employment was made available. It was a dilemma of a Lower Base job or the old farm and lagoon.

Most found work at Lower Base. It was a lot easier bringing

home the bacon than working under the sun clearing family land, including swallowing saltwater by fishing.

The transition was difficult in that the new job doesn't sufficiently provide for real basic family needs either. Thus it was supplemented doing farm work after hours. We continued planting and raising small livestock for sustenance.

The old ways were woefully hard for young people, the walk to the farm, returning after sunset bone-tired. Thus the slow transition for more part-time work after school. I worked as a janitor throughout high school. It was the only way to supplement food and school needs.

Poverty taught me one thing, though: humility! I endured every step of that difficult period of my life taking things as they unfold in my quiet ways. Trust me, it was hard! Physical exhaustion, hunger and studying don't go together.

Poverty entails the lack of basic needs while stuck in no man's land literally praying for something to break for the better. If it's boiled banana and salt for dinner then deal with it. I did!

It was in the misery of poverty that I learned what hunger is all about. Ever stared at an empty dinner table where inedible pork fat on the firewood stove is burning to let neighbors know you're cooking something for supper?

Noche Buena!

Local family gathering is one joyous occasion this time of year. The import of the occasion is filial reconnection and renewal once more. It's about the family and how fitting the occasion!

There are lots of jovial conversations, singing, laughter and food. I miss the family gathering we used to have a long time ago.

Family gathering begins with the kissing of the hands of our elders. Then lunch or dinner is served with lots of local delicacies. It was sheer joy the conversation and singing local Christmas songs.

Though now in memory lane we had a grand time. *Felis noche buena!*

Presents

It was in school that we learned of Christmas presents in a small box from the Red Cross. All the items in each box are the same from small tops to bobby pins.

Later, it was decided to do class exchange gifts. I suffered under this arrangement hailing from a home floored in poverty. I mean, a dollar or two would buy cans of tuna or sardine that covers an entire family meal.

There's no way I could get money for gifts. So the answer was to miss class on the designated day—class party—and I did!

Music

I'd play music of yesteryears or songs we used to sing in the old village. It's "traditional" songs we sang through the years.

There are songs that are a bit sentimental bringing fond memories of family members we once shared time together, singing. It was family music that occasionally rings in my ear these days. I miss singing with my late mom and brothers. Yes, let's sing *Tafan Magof Todu*.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Response to IPI statement of its past due debt to USA Fanter

USA Fanter strongly denies all falsehoods alleged by the IPI statement—false reports, forged project quantity numbers, increased units of materials used and prices, and double accrued charges. Ridiculous!

USA Fanter has been in the business as a general contractor since 1992 and has never been accused of lying, falsifying reports, not paying their employees, not paying their bills, or had their offices raided by the FBI.

USA Fanter is a duly licensed casino non-gaming vendor.

A good business reputation means everything, especially in a small community like the CNMI. IPI can be assured that USA Fanter will protect itself and its reputation to the fullest extent allowed by law.

With respect to this project, the facts are as follows:

1. On May 27, 2019, IPI prepared the solicitation for the required construction work requiring labor, materials, equipment, and installation;
2. IPI chose USA Fanter's proposal among other submitted proposals;
3. IPI prepared the proposed Contract;
4. On June 24, 2019, after negotiating the final terms of the contract, IPI and USA Fanter executed the IPI-prepared contract;
5. IPI reviewed and approved all USA Fanter billings over the progress completion period of June 24, 2019 to Sept. 24, 2019. USA Fanter had transmitted six billings—an initial billing for a down payment and followed by five work progress billings.
6. The IPI project site engineer, in an email dated Sept. 27, 2019, approved the fifth work progress billing with the following message:

"I've no adverse comments with your revised (progress) billing No. 5 Please submit work done invoice formally for our proceed payment application accordingly/ Thanks."

What did the IPI site engineer approve? A progress completion of 41.1%, totaling \$2.39 million of the total contract of \$5.8 million.

7. IPI paid only \$300,000 in August 2019 after a threatened notice-of-work stoppage was issued on Aug. 20, 2019.

USA Fanter is willing to negotiate a duly executed contract (that they themselves prepared and with required work-in-progress) with the obvious intent to force USA Fanter to discount their billings and settle for much less than what was contracted.

USA Fanter has engaged the services of an attorney for collection.

Doing business with IPI, the exclusive casino licensee, should NOT be a risk.

The regulatory process is supposed to equally protect IPI, the CNMI, and vendors for their respective interests. Something has gone horribly wrong and, sadly, local vendors are being victimized.

Guocao Qian

President, USA Fanter

SUPPORT

From Page 8

Citizens and governments at every level should make a mission of aiding this evolution, not abetting the takeover of journalism by venture capitalists. The nation's free press stands as a core value enshrined in the Constitution. For the sake of communities and democracy, the independent news business must be embraced, preserved and encouraged to succeed.

(c)2019 The Seattle Times



This uncopyrighted image shows Managaha Island.

MARCUS HSU

MANAGAHA

From Page 8

returns later by airplane to spend more time at places they liked along the way. That argument never seemed to catch on here in the CNMI and cruising garnered very little support from the various boards empaneled for MVA over the years, including those years when the MVA managing director was actually the Micronesian Cruise Association's president.

It should be good news that the Micronesian Cruise Association is once again actively seeking to bring some of the rapidly expanding fleet of big, modern East Asian cruise ships to our ports here in the CNMI and across Micronesia. Will we give the attempt the monetary and professional marketing support it deserves this time? I don't know but will keep my eyes peeled

for new white cruise ships at the Port of Saipan. There's gold in them that hills!

Thanks for reading Sour Grapes!

■ ■ ■

"Travel is the only thing you buy that make you richer."

—Life well cruised.com






"You know you're ready for a vacation when you start looking like your license photo."

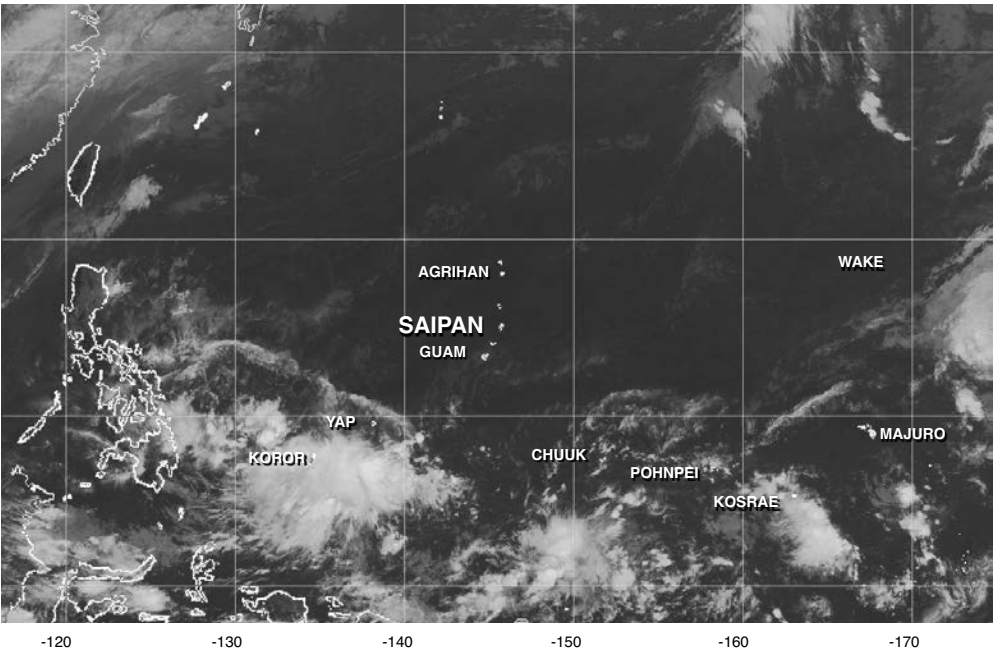
—Life well cruised.com

"20 years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, dream, discover."

—Mark Twain

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy and windy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 30 mph.		Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
86°	77°	86°	76°	86°	76°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:30 AM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019
WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 25N FROM 130E TO 180.

Guam weather radar shows a few lines of showers east of Guam waters, otherwise there is very little shower activity in the Marianas waters at this time. The VAD wind profile indicates east-northeast winds of 18 to 22 knots just off the surface which build to between 22 and 27 knots through the lowest 6 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal combined seas of 7 to 10 feet, composed mainly of trade-wind waves and swell, both from the northeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an up-dated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▼ ▲ °F		
Guam and Rota	Windy	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE ▼ ▲ °F		
Auckland	Rain	70° / 57°
Beijing	Sunny	37° / 16°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	70° / 64°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	83° / 73°
London	Showers	54° / 48°
Los Angeles	Sunny	68° / 49°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°
Melbourne	Sunny	106° / 70°
Miami	Showers	73° / 70°
New York	Mostly Sunny	40° / 19°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	55° / 46°
Paris	Showers	55° / 52°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	50° / 34°
Rome	Showers	61° / 48°
Salem	Sunny	53° / 32°
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	56° / 48°
Seoul	Sunny	37° / 21°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	55° / 43°
Washington, DC	Sunny	34° / 23°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
1:23 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.25
7:57 AM	LOW TIDE	0.18
2:51 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.82
9:43 PM	LOW TIDE	0.43

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:37 AM	5:51 PM
Saturday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM
Sunday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Monday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Tuesday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:40 AM	1:08 PM
Saturday	-	1:36 AM	1:52 PM
Sunday	-	2:32 AM	2:36 PM
Monday	-	3:29 AM	3:22 PM
Tuesday	-	4:27 AM	4:10 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 2, 2019							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA105	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	UA104	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily	SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
				SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	OZ6233	8:00am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1	OZ623	8:55am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:25am	3, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 4, 5, 6	TW309	11:10am	4:25pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ6243	3:20pm	7:10pm	2, 4, 6	TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ624	3:50pm	7:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
TW310	5:25pm	10:15pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	4, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	UA184/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via GUM	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR	OZ704/6233	11:45pm	1:20pm+1	1, 3, 5 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	2:30pm+1	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/6233	12:35am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:35am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:40am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ6243/9661	3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
				UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



A SAIPAN TRIBUNE ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT
20 DECEMBER 2019

CHRISTMAS UNWRAPPED

Happy holidays

from Saipan's little elves

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Don't go broke impressing your loved one, family member, or friend this Christmas. Be smart about your spending and stretch that dollar for your Christmas shopping.

Here are several shops and department stores in the CNMI that offer big sales and discounts so you can breathe through the holidays without worrying about breaking the bank!

McDonald's

For people who love fastfood, McDonald's Arch Card is the perfect gift for you, your family, friends, or loved one. Get a free coupon for a six-piece chicken nugget with a purchase of a McDonald's Arch Card worth \$25. Call (670) 235-8761 for more informa-

See **HAPPY** on Next Page

SALE UP TO 50% OFF

BURBERRY COACH Salvatore Ferragamo FENDI LOEWE BALLY EMPORIO ARMANI POLO RALPH LAUREN MICHAEL KORS VESPAINT LAURENT

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8000BTU \$249.99

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55" 4K UHD SMART \$919.00
48" LED SMART \$579.00
32" LED SMART \$399.00

TCL TV
32" LED SMART \$259.99
40" LED SMART \$299.99
43" LED SMART \$389.99

MAGIC SING KARAOKE
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POWERED BLUETOOTH SPEAKER
10% - 15% OFF ALL MODEL

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10% OFF ALL MODEL

BOSE BLUETOOTH SPEAKER
10% OFF

BLUETOOTH KARAOKE \$62.99

MCHV 21
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REG. \$379.99
SALE \$299.99

MCHV 71
15% OFF



REG. \$699.99
SALE \$539.99

GTKXB 60
10% OFF



REG. \$399.99
SALE \$349.99

GTKXB 90
10% OFF



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SALE \$449.99

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ALL MODEL



SONY BLUETOOTH PORTABLE

15% OFF
ALL MODEL



CAR STEREO AMPLIFIER SUBWOOFER

15% OFF
ALL MODEL

HAPPY

From Page 12

tion. Limited time offer.

T Galleria

This year, the T Galleria in Garapan is having a sale of up to 50% off on brands like Burberry, Coach, Salvatore Ferragamo, Fendi, Loewe, Bally, Emporio Armani, Polo Ralph Lauren, Michael Kors, and Yves Saint Laurent. Some brand exclusions apply. See store for details. DFST Galleria is open daily from 10:30am to 10:30pm. For more information call (670) 234-6602.

Dial Rent-to-Own

Shop at Dial Rent-to-Own on Middle Road or Chalan Kanoa to see how affordable Christmas shopping can be. Get a 75" ThinQ TV for as low as \$25.95 per week or a 45"-65" Smart TV starting at \$9.95 per week. Thinking about getting a new phone but don't have the budget for it? Don't worry, Dial Rent-to-Own's got your back! Get the iPhone X for only \$24.95 per week, Samsung Note 9 for as low as \$19.95 per week, or the Samsung S9 for as low as \$17.95 per week. For gamers, Dial Rent-to-Own is offering the IBuyPower Arc for as low as \$27.95 per week, the Nitro 5 Gaming Laptop for as low as \$21.95 per week, the PS4 Pro for as low as \$10.95 per week, Xbox Fortnite bundle for as low as \$9.95 per week, or the Nintendo Switch for as low as \$20.95 per week. Ring in the new school semester with the MacBook Air for as low as \$25.95 per week. Now, we all know a party isn't a party without good music and good speakers. Dial Rent-to-Own is offering the Bag of Riddim speakers for as low as \$9.95 per week and the Thunder 15 speaker for as low as \$9.95. For more information call (670) 234-7368 (Middle Road branch) or (670)234-3425 (Chalan Kanoa branch)

Midea Electric

Midea Electric, located in Chalan Kanoa across the U.S. Post Office, is having a holiday promotion sale. Get electronics and home appliances such as aircons, Smart TVs from 35" to 55", freezers, refrigerators, washers, water dispensers, LED lights, Christmas lights, solar lights, faucets, speakers and so much more for 5%-15% off. For more information call (670)234-0680 or (670)285-0680.

Sherwood

Sherwood Home and Car Audio, located across Hopwood Jr. Middle School in Chalan Piao, is having a

holiday sale just in time for Christmas. Get a Daewoo refrigerator 12.8 cubic feet for only \$559.99. Get a washing machine for only \$399.99. Beat the heat with Daewoo 5,000 BTU aircon for only \$161.99 and 8,000 BTU for only \$249.99. Get Smart TVs from a 32" to 65" with a price range from \$259.99 to \$1,259. Go back to school with a new laptop, get 10% off on all HP Lenovo laptop models. A party isn't complete without karaoke, so get the Magic Sing Karaoke set at 10% off of \$269 or the Bluetooth karaoke for only \$62.99. Get 10%-15% off of all the Bluetooth powered speakers. Get 10%-25% off on Sony's portable speakers, ranging from \$299.99 to \$539.99. Turn your regular TV speakers into a movie theatre with the Supersonic sound bar for 15% off on all models or the Sony soundbar for 10% off on all models. Tired of your car's stock speakers or stereo? Get 15% off on all car stereos and amplifier subwoofer models. For more information call (670)235-1470 or email kncorp7@hotmail.com.

Triple J Payless Superfresh and Truckload Store

Drop by to Triple J's Payless Superfresh and Truckload Store in Chalan Kanoa for their Christmas sales! Get the Vizio 55" HDTV for only \$399.95, ATYME 32" LED HDTV for only \$139.95, or the Konchris 55" 4K TV for only \$349.95 or 49" 4K TV for only \$299.95. Get 75% off on all Christmas decorations. For bikers or parents wanting to get their kid(s) their first bike, Triple J is offering 20% off on all bicycles, some assembly required. Already got a bike for your kid? Why not get them their first car! Get 15% off on all Yiwu 110-volt children ride on vehicles. Get 10% off on all Billboard and Blaupunkt party speakers. Get futons, pillows, keyboards, kitchen appliances, home appliances, hardware, coolers, dog food, sportspower adventure 11-9 play swing set and more, price ranging from \$6.95-\$329.95. Triple J's Payless Superfresh and Truckload Store also offers Certified Angus Beef, whole chicken and smoked ham, price ranging from \$1.49 per lb to \$13.49 per lb. Get the freshest produce such as broccoli, onions, bell peppers and many more for as low as .79¢ per lb to \$1.79 per lbs. Come in to see how you can shop, earn, and save with Payless Superfresh and Truckload Store Rewards Plus card for free! Major credit cards are accepted. Store hours are from Sunday to Saturday from 8am to 9pm. Closed on Christmas Day, Dec. 25.

For more information call (670)322-0430.

Town House

Town house, located in Chalan Kanoa, is celebrating the holidays with 20% off on all mattresses, decor, Yamaha items, and living room sets and 25% off on all knockdown

items, kitchen sets and appliances. Get home furniture such as recliner chairs, couches, cabinets, and many more for as low as \$49 to \$599. Get electronics such as keyboards, guitars, and speakers for as low as \$119 to \$1,199. Get kitchen appliances such as washers, ovens, refrigerators and more

for as low as \$499 to \$1,299. Free delivery and assembly for purchases worth \$1,000 or more. Interest-free financing up to 12 months on approved credit. Sales is from Dec. 20 to Dec. 22 and Dec. 24, 2019. Store hours on Tuesday-Friday from 12pm to 7pm and Saturday-Sunday from 11am to

7pm. For more information call (670)235-6356.

Docomo

Merry Christmas from Docomo Pacific, located on Middle Road. Subscribe to NOW Family plans and receive \$200 off each additional phone for up

See **HAPPY** on Next Page

Vietnam HOME GALLERY

Greenery in Style
House Plants, Fine Ceramics and more...

LOCATION MAP

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HAPPY

From Page 13

to three phones this holiday. Offers require a minimum of two lines when subscribing to the NOW Family Plans and Installment Program. Offers valid until Jan. 5, 2020, or while supplies last. Some conditions apply. Stores hours are from Monday to Saturday from 9am to 6pm. Closed on Sundays. For more information call (670)488-2273.

IT&E

Have you been good this year? If so, visit IT&E at either Middle Road Chalan Laolao or Garapan, to treat yourself to the newest iPhone 11 for as low as \$99, iPhone 11 Pro for as low as \$199, and the iPhone 11 Pro Max for as low as \$299. IT&E is also offering unlimited everything for prepaid users. Get an extra day of Super Unlimited for free when you sign up for the Unlimited Daily Plan for three days. Unlimited Daily Plans include 4G LTE data, local talk, text and long distance to the United States. Offer valid from now until Dec. 31, 2019. Terms and conditions apply. See stores or visit www.ite.net for details. Chalan Laolao store hours are Monday-Saturday from 9am to 5pm and Garapan hours are Monday-Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Girl Talk

Girl Talk, the boutique made for tween girls, is having a sale of 10%-15% off on girls and junior dresses, blouses, jumpers, pants and much more from Dec. 20 to Dec. 24.

Girl Talk, located on Micro Beach Road in Garapan and targets girls from ages 8-12, is open Monday-Saturday from 11am to 7pm and on Sundays from 11am to 5pm. For more information call (670)233-8050.

Lollipops

This holiday, Lollipops on Beach Road in Garapan is offering a variety of affordable toys and clothes for those who are on a tight budget or shopping for many children. Lollipops is having a sale, with discounts of 10%, 20%, and 50% on toys and clothing from Dec. 20 to Dec 24. Their special Christmas holiday hours are Friday to Saturday (9am to 8pm); Sunday (10am to 6pm); Monday (9am to 9pm) and Tuesday (9am to 10pm). For more information call (670)234-8040.

Mobil

The holidays are for family, friends, or just you and your loved one and that means going around the island to attend different events. But

See HAPPY on Next Page

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*Terms and conditions apply. Offer valid from 11/29/19 to 12/31/19. To receive 1 day of unlimited 4G LTE data, local talk and text and long distance calls to the US, full \$7.50 will be collected upon subscription of 3 days of prepaid unlimited daily plan. USF & E911 fees apply. See stores or visit www.ite.net for details.

HAPPY

From Page 14

what's something that gives you the same amount of joy other than receiving food or spending time with people you care about? A full tank of gas! This Christmas Mobil is offering prepaid gift cards of \$25 for you, your family, friends, or loved one. Only cash payments will be accepted for the purchase of the \$25 Mobil prepaid gift cards. For more information go to fuels.mobil.mp.

PHI Pharmacy

PHI Pharmacy, at the Joeten Dandan Center, is having a sale from Dec. 9 to Dec. 28 for supplements, vitamins, and sports nutritional products for 35% off. All over-the-counter items are 25% off; and 50% off on selected items. They're open on Monday-Friday from 8am to 6pm and Saturday-Sunday from 8am to 4pm. For more information call (670)323-5000/01 or (670)235-6170/74.

Vietnam Home Gallery

Shop for house plants, fine ceramics, and more from Southeast Asia that are offered at Vietnam Home Gallery located in China Town. Store hours: Monday to Friday from 1pm to 7pm and Saturday to Sunday from 8am to 6pm. For more information call (670)234-7687 or (670)285-7687.

Saipan Vegas

Merry Christmas from Saipan Vegas on Middle Road! Saipan Vegas has a promo for a local staycation which includes local room rates starting from \$35 a night with free WiFi and cable TV, plus a check-in complimentary champagne, beer or wine at the new Bamboo Bar. Those who check in at any of the \$35 room will get a \$20 free play voucher; there is a \$25 free play voucher for \$45 room. Free round of golf at the Saipan Country Club each day, a complimentary coffee and donut at Winchells each day and a welcome gift, T-shirt, or cap on arrival. Promo period starts from Dec. 19 to Jan 19, 2020.

Alamo, Enterprise, and National Rent-A-Car

Alamo, Enterprises, and National Rent-A-Car is having a promo on their cars from now until Dec. 31. Get a Toyota Yaris for as low as \$29.95 per day. Toyota Corolla is only \$34.95 per day. Nissan Rogue is only \$44.95 per day. Toyota Sienna is only \$74.95 per day. You're just in luck because they have a weekend special for their yellow Chevy Camaro for as low as \$69.95 per day.

Dear Santa, I've been good all year.

iPhone 11	iPhone 11 Pro Max	iPhone 11 Pro
\$99*	\$299*	\$199*

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*Terms and conditions apply. Advertised price, available only on a 24-month agreement on the \$80/month plan. Subject to credit check. Colors based on availability. See stores or visit ite.net for details.

IT&E

Buy 100% made in Saipan this

Christmas

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The tag "Made in the Northern Mariana Islands" used to

be a coveted title that was affixed to many of the clothes that were made in the Commonwealth during the garment factory years of the late '80s and early '90s and

shipped to the United States.

These days, with the factories now all gone, that tag has become a byword among local artists, who create art pieces borne out of passion and

hard-won skills, and whose products make great souvenirs for the islands' many tourists and even residents.

This holiday season, give our CNMI artists the attention they deserve by giving gifts and souvenirs that are 100% made in the CNMI. These people carry with them the passion, talent and ingenuity to make the CNMI community a better place to live in, which is why local support is warranted.

Handmade

"A lot of people are starting to appreciate something that is handmade now," said one of the CNMI's more pro-

lific artists, Greg Elliot, whose hobby revolves around art. "Handmade is a trending idea, especially when there is a globalization of products. Getting something that is handmade in your community...is what people look for. ...I want people who buy my art to feel that they got something unique from Saipan," he said.

Elliot, who grew up in Los

Angeles, started painting watercolor in high school. "It was in college where I actually really took off with art. I had great teachers and was into watercolors for 15 years until 10 years ago, I transitioned more into acrylics and oils," he said.

One will never miss Elliot's art as it is colorful and is always bright and interesting.

See CHRISTMAS on Next Page

Merry Christmas

10% - 20% - 50% off
clothing and toy
departments
Dec 20th to Dec 24th

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Greg Elliot

BEA CABRERA

Happy Holidays!

a boutique for
Tween girls
ages 8-12

10% to 20% off girls'
and junior dresses,
blouses, jumpers, pants,
and much more!!
Dec 20th to Dec 24th

Girl Talk

Micro Beach Road, Garapan,
across American Memorial Park
Dec 20 to Dec 24 - 11am to 7pm/8pm
Sun: 11am to 5pm
TEL. 233-8050

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Tanya Salas

BEA CABRERA

CHRISTMAS

From Page 16

"I've been getting into acrylic pouring techniques where I pour paint and then doing realism on top of the pours... building the two together."

Elliot has been a resident of Saipan for 16 years now and worked as a resident artist for DFS Galleria for 10 years. "Much of my work has tropical themes. Now I'm combining tropical scenes with fantasy. When I got here I just started hitting the pavement and trying to get my art in different stores and, luckily, DFS opened right away. They liked my stuff and they set me up with a gallery area for 10 years and sold a lot of paintings," he said.

These days, Elliot does a lot of gift-type sizes—4"x4" original pieces—"so I am doing little canvas paintings that are small, easy to take home, great for gifts and affordable, which I think the market needs right now. ...I have endless ideas and a sketchbook full of ideas and always coming up with new concepts. I really like to combine what I see from different places and creating something original and new," he added.

More of Elliot's original paintings in bigger pieces, prints, and apparels can be seen on www.windmonk.com. With the goal to promote art even more, Elliot will open an art class on Jan. 7, 2020—an after-school program for children ages 6 to 12. It is free on the first day and \$22 a class thereafter. It has 100 slots available and classes will be held at the

Saipan International School.

Unique items

Tanya Salas, owner of Tahine's Creations and Tahine's TV productions, grew up in a family of weavers and carvers in Pohnpei.

"I watched my aunts and uncles make things. ...I grew up around weaving, carving, and creating things, so I try to make something too as a hobby. ...I made things for myself like earrings and necklaces and friends complimented the pieces and, orders started pouring in," she said.

With Tahine's Creations, Salas makes handicrafts, design handmade jewelry made of shells and natural materials, and ornaments for occasions or holidays.

"I also make baskets...the natural materials I get from my homeland of Pohnpei. ...Making every piece takes time but, in the end, the quality is good and every piece is one-of-a-kind," she said.

Salas said that when people support local artists, they also support the growth of the community. "People have to support their own locally-made products as they are from natural resources. ... Artists give their time and resources to make one piece."

"When I see customers wear my work, it makes me feel happy and satisfied. ... Every piece promotes my island culture that I am proud of," she added.

'Share what I see'

Photographer Pangshushu, who really prefers to be called that, has been enjoying so much of what the CNMI has to offer in terms of beautiful



Pangshushu

BEA CABRERA

images that, pretty soon, he has accumulated gigabytes of pictures. "And I figured I better to do something with that," he said.

Whenever he is out on weekends, he does underwater photography while diving or take photos while driving around.

"I figured out a way to represent the island in semi-abstract ways and...share what I see, put it in a canvas so that people can take home something from the island that is easy to put on the wall. Anything that happens after that is a gift or a bonus," he added.

According to Pangshushu, his form of photography is

a protest against the selfie culture. "Most of my photographs have no people represented in them or very little. It is always about nature or animals," he said.

Elliot, Salas and Pangshushu's arts are available at the Marianas Creations pub and restaurant located along Micro Beach Road in Garapan. MC owner Elena Chhetri said that they welcome more local products to be featured at Marianas Creations. "We are open to any type of products that are made in the Marianas by any producer who is in the Marianas. ...We are here to offer them space," she said.

Holiday Promotion SALE

5%-50% OFF

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Offer requires a minimum of two (2) lines subscribed to NOW Family Plans & Installment Program. Offer valid till Jan. 5, 2020 or while supplies last. Some conditions apply.

One-stop shops around Saipan

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Find great value, gifts under \$50 and save a lot of time shopping for Christmas gifts for family members and friends. Finding everything you need in one roof cuts off the stress and helps you relax more during the holidays.

Here's a guide on where to go around town

and get every dollar well spent.

Help mom look fabulous

Especially inspired by the Christmas season, Pena House Boutique in San Antonio carries new products and items that will surely be a special gift for mom.

Pena House Boutique sales representative Mijana Isabel B. Malabayabas said that they usually amp up their collection this time of the year with blouses and dresses that will help



Pena House Boutique in San Antonio has items below \$50, Bamboo Shoes for only \$38, ladies watch for only \$25, a necklace for only \$28, Le Terre Fashion purse for only \$48, LA Girl eyeshadow for only \$18, and Magazine Red Top for only \$48.

BEA CABRERA

women shine when they attend Christmas cocktails, get-togethers and dinners.

"We pair these dresses with our pretty shoes, bags, and purses. ...We carry all lines, from casual wear to formal and non-formal events and wedding dresses for brides," she said.

For more information, call (670) 235-7270 or look up Pena House Saipan Boutique and Salon on FaceBook and Instagram.

"We have many items that will suits everybody's budget as we make it affordable for everybody. Our customers are assured of quality and we offer a wide range of items," she added.

Even for make-up, Pena House Boutique has face foundations "that you [usually] buy in drugstores and some high-end [products] like Kylie, Anastasia, Laura Mercier, for people who want to invest in make-up."

Pena House Boutique is open Mondays to Saturdays, from 1pm to 7pm, and Sundays from 1pm to 6pm.

On Dec. 24, they are open from 10am to 7pm to cater to last-minute Christmas shoppers.

For more information, call (670) 235-7270 or look up Pena House Saipan Boutique and Salon on FaceBook and Instagram.

Go on an adventure with dad



Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods items that cost below \$50 include a dive mask for only \$45, Under Armour short for only \$29, a rechargeable fan for only \$29.99, a professional flashlight for diving for only \$39.99, 50% off on Octopus skirts, and a soccer ball for only \$29.95.

BEA CABRERA

Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods in Chalan Piao is ahead of the game as they started giving discounts on their items since Thanksgiving, said service representative and technician Jorge Bartolata.

"We currently give 10% discount on all items. But we also have items that go for as low as \$3 and some items that are 50% off," he said.

For more information, call (670)234-6320

The store started giving discounts last Thanksgiving, then on to Black Friday, this Christmas season, which

will run until New Year's Day.

"We are definitely a one-stop shop for dads, uncles, and brothers who are into sports and adventure such as fishing, airsoft/airgun, scuba diving, free diving, hiking, sports like soccer paddling and many others," he added.

Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods is open Monday to Saturday, from 9:30am to 6:30pm and Sundays from 10am to 3pm. For more information, call (670)234-6320

For the daughter that brightens up your day

Kiki's on Middle Road is never amiss when it comes to style and trends. For the holidays, it has e a holiday table that fea-

Continued on Next Page

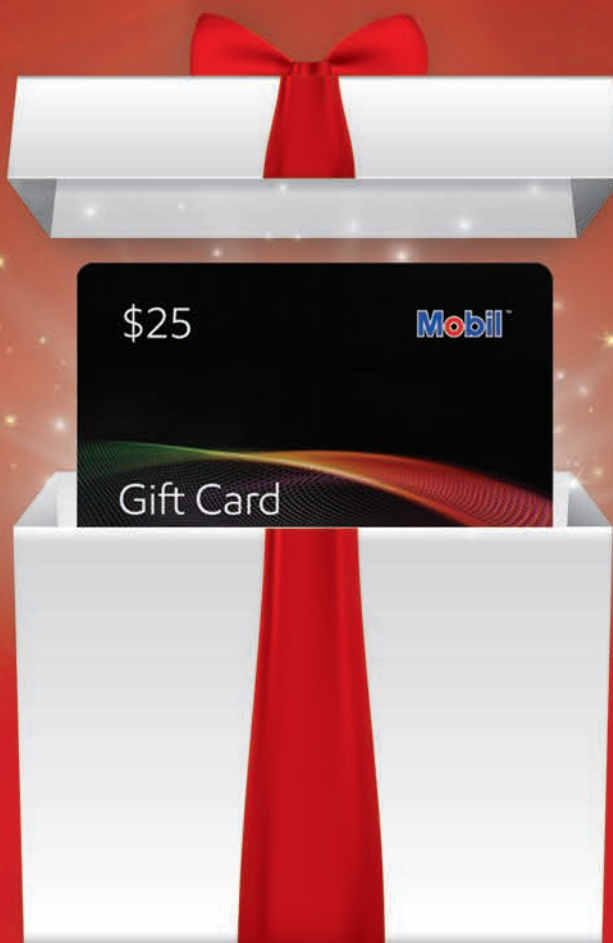
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tures Starbucks mugs and tumblers that you cannot find anywhere else on the islands.

"Aside from our usual apparels, we added sequined dresses for evening wear and active wear, including sports bras and matching leggings. Customers can expect our usual array of accessories, luxury make-up and reusable straws," shop owner Maki Ta said.

Kiki's is where people can go and find everything. If not



Kiki's items below \$50: Sneakers for only \$32.90, glitter eye-shadow for only \$8.90 each, Kiki's lashes that come in six different styles for only \$15.90, Bath & Body cream for only \$15.90, Bath & Body Fragrance for only \$18.90, three-wick candles for only \$24 and make-up for only \$16.

BEA CABRERA

something to wear, perhaps something to buy as a gift. The best part is that almost everything in the store cost below \$50.

"Everything here is affordable and cute for women of all ages and we try to bring in new things as often as we can. We are looking forward to bringing in more new things in the coming year," she said.

Kiki's is open Tuesday to Saturday, from 11am to 7pm. On Dec. 24, it will be open from 11am to 6pm.

'Be the man you are meant to be, son'

The Pacific Supply on Middle Road, or TPS in modern lingo, promotes island-style living and easy clothes for your son, nephew, grandson, and friend. According to office manager Raquel Borja-Aguon, people have been frequenting the shop since the Christmas season kicked off.



The Pacific Supply items below \$50: Caps for only \$35, dri-fit shirts for only \$25 each, pouch for only \$40, TPS phone case for only \$20, TPS sticker pack for only \$12, wristband for only \$5, and car decal for only \$20.

BEA CABRERA

"Some people come to look and see what options they have and some come for Christmas shopping. We are ready for the holidays. For example, our Undeniable brand recently dropped new items.

For more information, look up The Pacific Supply on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

We also have jerseys and tank tops, in addition to the other shirts we have on stock."

Borja-Aguon said that TPS shirts cost only \$25 and they even have a sale rack that carries shirts for only \$22 from the previous season.

"One of our newest items is the a car decal with 3M adhesive in the back so you can basically put it on anything but we are hoping people will put it in their cars," she added.

TPS is open Tuesday to Saturday from 11am to 7pm. On Dec. 24, it will be open from 11am to 6pm. For more information, look up The Pacific Supply on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

'Children's laughter reminds us how we used to be'

For toys and clothes for boys and girls, Lollipops in Garapan is the place to be. Sales associate Charlotte Castro said that they are extra busy because of the holidays but are loving it. "Today, Friday, we kick off our combo sale of all toys and clothing, where customers can enjoy 10- to 20% discounts."

For more information, call (670) 234-8040 or look it up on FaceBook: Lollipops

"Here at Lollipops, you will always find a gift. You can never walk out emptyhanded and, if you feel some sort of doubt, we are here to help you,"

she added.

Lollipops is open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 8pm and on Sunday from 10am to 6pm. On Dec. 24, they are open until 11pm for last-minute shoppers. For more information, call (670) 234-8040 or look it up on FaceBook: Lollipops



Enjoy the combo sale at Lollipops starting today and get 10% to 20% off on toys and clothing.

BEA CABRERA

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Buying gifts for the office? Here are some tips

By CHARISSE JONES
USA TODAY

Many workers feel the prospect of buying presents for their colleagues adds yet another layer of pressure to an already stressful season.

A lot of the tension stems from not knowing what to buy. Giving an inappropriate gift to a colleague or boss could lead to more severe

consequences.

Horror stories abound. Philippe Weiss, president of the workplace legal compliance consultancy Seyfarth at Work, says he heard about one manager who gave his sales team bamboo toothbrushes. The recipients interpreted the gift as a dig at their oral hygiene.

An employee at another company put her job in peril when she gifted her boss

with a book on how to be a better manager.

To avoid such faux pas, it makes sense for companies to put a gift policy in place so employees know what is and isn't acceptable. If your workplace doesn't set parameters, here are some tips Weiss says you might want to keep in mind.

■ Don't buy gifts that can be deemed too intimate. Anything worn close to the

body, from clothes to perfume, should be avoided, along with invites on excursions—such as a wine tasting—that could be seen as more romantic than collegial.

■ Don't shop for the boss. It might be tempting to deliver a little extra holiday cheer to your managers, but generally speaking, they probably shouldn't accept. It's best to not put them in a position to have to say, "Thanks, but no thanks."

■ Don't make everyone

chip in for a group gift. When people are spending on everything from decorations to extra towels for visiting relatives, it's a good idea to allow members of your team to make their own decision on whether to contribute to the pot.

■ Don't give cash. That, and even gift cards, could be taxed as income, Weiss says.

■ Do encourage "Secret Santa." Let employees who want to participate pick names randomly. Then come

up with gift suggestions, and set a budget so no one breaks the bank.

■ Do split the bounty. If a client sends over a giant plate of cookies or other treat, share it with your office mates. Don't forget to include the mailroom and maintenance staff.

■ Do consider giving to the community. Instead of having employees pick out picture frames and candles for their peers, why not donate as an office to a cause?

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By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

This holiday season, why stress out about what to cook for your family or friends when you can have all your favorite meals at the best hotels and restaurants around Saipan?

Celebrate the Christmas Eve at Hyatt Regency Saipan with your family, friends, and loved one on Dec. 24 at Kili Café & Terrace for only \$65 per person and \$45 for Club at the Hyatt members from 6pm to 9pm.

Enjoy your favorite Japanese cuisine at Miyako from 6pm to 9pm for only \$65 per person and \$45 for Club at the Hyatt members.

Or have dinner with a show at Teppanyaki from 6pm to 9pm for only \$120 per person. (Club at the Hyatt members are welcome). As an added special offer, you can indulge in the free-flowing beverage package for only \$12 per person for two hours, with a selection of house wines, beer, soda, and iced tea. Have a wonderful Christmas Day brunch on Dec. 25 from 10:30am through 2pm for only \$65 per person and \$45 for Club at the Hyatt members.

Continue celebrating Christmas Day on Dec. 25 at Kili Café and Terrace from 6pm to 9pm for only \$65 per person and \$45 per person for Club at the Hyatt members.

Have a merry Merry Christmas at Miyako from 6pm to 9pm for only \$48 per person. (Club at the Hyatt members are welcome).

Get romantic and celebrate Christmas Day at Giovanni's from 6pm to 9pm for only \$85 per person and

HOLIDAY DINING

'Tis the season for holiday eating

\$55 per person for Club at the Hyatt members. As an added special offer, you can indulge in the free-flowing beverage package for only \$12 per person for two hours, with a selection of house wines, beer, soda, and iced tea.

Have your food cooked right in front of you at the Teppanyaki from 6pm to 9pm for only \$120 per person. (Club at the Hyatt members are welcome). As an added special offer, you can indulge in a free-flowing beverage package for only \$12 per person for two hours with a selection of house wines, beer, soda, and iced tea.

The New Year's Eve dinner on Dec 31 from 6pm to 9pm is always unforgettable. Celebrate at Kili Café & Terrace for only \$120 per person. Club at the Hyatt member are welcome. Indulge in a beverage package for only \$12 per person for two hours.

Indulge in authentic Japanese cuisine at Miyako for only \$65 per person and \$45 per person for Club at

the Hyatt members. Dinner also includes sparkling wine, selected beer, draft Chuhai and green tea.

Celebrate at Giovanni's for only \$55 per person and \$45 per person for Club at the Hyatt members. Get the beverage package for only \$12 per person for two hours.

Be amazed by the Teppanyaki chefs at the Teppanyaki for only \$120 per person. Add a beverage package for only \$12 per person for two hours. Club at the Hyatt members are welcome.

The New Year's Day brunch at Kili Café and Terrace is not to be missed for only \$65 per person and \$45 per person for Club at the Hyatt members or go to Miyako for only \$65 per person and \$45 per person for Club at the Hyatt members. The Miyako Brunch includes free-flowing beer,

sake, and green tea. Reservations are highly recommended. For more information call (67) 322-1234 ext. 26.

Join GrandVrio Resort for a Christmas Eve dinner at the Tropical Restaurant on Dec. 24 from 5:30pm to 9pm for only \$40 per adult. Have a Christmas Day brunch and dinner on Dec. 25 from 11am to 2pm for only \$34 per adult and from 5:30pm to 9pm for only \$40 per adult. For more information, reservations or inquiries call (670)237-2527. Local price available for dinner only.

Bring your loved ones to Aqua Resort Club. On Dec. 24 have a special Christmas Eve dinner at the Costa Terrace Restaurant for only \$42 per person and only \$21 per child from 6pm to 9pm. On Dec. 25 have a very special Christmas Day champagne brunch for only \$42 per person and \$21 per child from 11am to 2pm. Kevin's Prime Rib and Seafood of-

fers two meal sets: Set A is only \$70 per adult and Set B is \$60 per adult on Dec. 24 and Dec. 25 from 6pm to 10pm.

Have dinner with a show and a view on Dec. 25 at the Sunset Beach BBQ from 6pm to 9pm. Menu options may vary.

For reservations or more information call (670)322-1234. A 20% advance deposit is required for reservations of 10+ guests.

Join Kanoa Resort Saipan for not only a special meal but also memories you won't forget on Christmas Eve on Dec. 24 at Isla Cafe for only \$35 per adult and \$15 per child (4 to 11 years old) from 6pm to 10pm.

Have brunch at Isla Cafe on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, and New Year's Day, Jan. 1, from 11am to 2pm, for only \$35 per adult and \$15 per child (4 to 11 years old). All offerings come with unlimited sparkling wine.

Celebrate with Pacific Islands Club on Dec. 31 at 9pm with their New Year's Eve countdown party at the PIC Beachfront for local guests for only \$25 per adult and \$5 per child. For other hotel guests, it is only \$40 per adult and \$10 per child. All night entertainment, champagne toast, raffles, and fireworks! Enjoy unlimited beverages from 9pm to 12am. Special variety of international cuisines will be available for sale all night. Entertainment includes Saipan Music and Dance Studio, PIC Bands, S.E.A Clubmates and cultural dance featuring performances from special guest R-Funkist and Ulala Session. Tickets will also be available at the PIC front

See SEASON on Page 24



Happy Holidays

Celebrate the holidays with us this year with various delicious options at Costa Terrace Restaurant's Buffet, Kevin's -The Prime Rib & Seafood, or our Sunset Beach BBQ Dinner Show!



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Special Christmas Eve Dinner Buffet
December 24, 2019
6:00pm - 9:00pm
\$42.00/adult \$21.00/child
*\$38.00/adult *\$19.00/child

Special Christmas Day Champagne Brunch
December 25, 2019
11:00am - 2:00pm
\$42.00/adult \$21.00/child
*\$38.00/adult *\$19.00/child

Kevin's
The Prime Rib & Seafood

Christmas Eve Special Set Menu
December 24, 2019
6:00pm - 10:00pm
Set A - \$70.00 /adult
Set B - \$60.00 /adult

Christmas Day Special Set Menu
December 25, 2019
6:00pm - 10:00pm
Set A \$70.00 /adult
Set B \$60.00 /adult

Sunset Beach BBQ

Christmas Day Sunset BBQ Dinner Show
December 25, 2019
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Alana'ia Polynesian Show
Menu Options Vary

Stay in shape this holiday season

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Christmas season is a time to indulge. Eat. Be merry. Repeat.

To stay in shape is a big

challenge but it can still be done, according to Dr. Daniel Chase, who is a former U.S. Marine and is currently Latte Built Gym's director for fitness.

"The food we eat here

generally is very healthy as long as it is wholesome food and not the processed foods and fast food. We have fish, meats, rice, and fresh vegetables. The problem really lies in taking it in abundance

then the sedentary action afterwards," he said.

"If you look at the diet here, it is actually really good minus all the processed stuff. Remove the processed stuff and get a little more active, drink more water and you will be amazed with the results that you get," he added.

Chase understands the food cravings that the body feels and calls it "natural evolution."

"Through sight and smell, your body recognizes certain elements that are enriched and these elements make your body crave," he said.



Chase

in one plate," Chase said.

For alcoholic drinks, he recommends having a serving of alcohol and then drinking one glass of water.

Chase said this is a must for digestion and rehydration "because alcohol will actually dehydrate you and then your body

doesn't process the food properly and stores more of it as fat. The faster you get alcohol out of your system, the faster your body will break down food. How to take alcohol out of your system? Time and hydration."

'The sedentary life...'

"The average American cannot complete a one mile run, 24 situps, 10 pushups, and one pull up. Do you want to be average? ...What I tell a lot of clients in the United States is to go adopt a dog, especially if they are single, because that's going to get you out of the house and be active," Chase said.

"If you are going to be with family this Christmas, there is no excuse for not being active. Families that play together stay together. Plan family trips, outings, events, do an activity—soccer, rugby volleyball as a sport," Chase added.

'Satisfy your craving, do not indulge in it'

"Eat and drink in moderation. Instead of eating the whole pie, eat half of a slice. When at a bakery, don't buy the whole cake, buy a slice of the cake and take one or two bites then put it in a to-go bag. Eat it for the next two or three days, which is more sensible and that's why I say, it is not necessarily the food but the abundance of it," he added.

Little trick

Before you go to a buffet or a gathering where there will be lots of food, drink three to four glasses of water.

"Your stomach is like a bucket and, if it is half full of water, how much food can you put in there? The water also helps digest.

"As for what you put in your plate, get no more than one scoop per item and no more than three or four items

RESTAURANT TROPICANA

Christmas BUFFET

Christmas Eve Dinner December 24, 2019 5:30PM - 9:00PM - \$40/ADULT	Christmas Day Brunch & Dinner December 25, 2019 11:00AM - 2:00PM - \$35/ADULT 5:30PM - 9:00PM - \$40/ADULT
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Christmas traditions from around the world

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrera@saipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI is a basin for people of different backgrounds who make the holidays on the islands extra special. Residents reconnect with their culture and traditions in a place where everyone makes joyful medley of revelries—all united in celebrating the spirit of Christmas.

Francia Borja, who is born and raised on Saipan, has fond memories of how her family spends Christmas time. "We usually gather at my grandmother's house on the eve of Christmas. All families would bring gifts and food for potluck and, when that happens, I know it will be a night of conversations, catching up, fun, laughter and overall just a memorable day. Later on, we will open up presents and the night continues."



Mili Chaves De Saiki celebrates her Peruvian roots during the holidays, starting with planting grass on Dec. 1. "We plant grass in a can and water it everyday. By the 20th, it will be strong and tall and we use it to decorate the nativity on our Christmas tree. We also write letters to Niño Jesus (Baby Jesus) to ask for presents, bake cookies every night and have fun decorating them. ...On Christmas eve, my family and cousins share dinner, exchange gifts and go together to the misa de gallo (midnight Mass). On Christmas Day, we all visit our grandmother for more presents and a big lunch that includes turkey, asado, salads and lots of wine."



Marissa Castro celebrates Christmas with her family here with a hint of how she did it while growing up in the Philippines. "On Christmas Day we go to Mass first thing in the morning. As Christmas is all about family, we have lunch at my children's favorite restaurant, go shopping for some more family bonding and then we go home to open gifts."



Alexa Go of Chalan Lau lau said the whole family is together on Christmas Day. "We eat out if we can and then we spend time in the house with other family members. Sometimes we plan exchange gifts too, but sometimes we are not complete so we do other things. Christmas is about family bonding in the living room, relaxing and talking. I want to continue this tradition when I have my own family, just even bigger where I would be like throwing parties for Christmas, mostly for families."

See CHRISTMAS on Next Page

Holiday Specials

Join us this Holiday Season to enjoy a special meal with family and friends. Our team has specially prepared a host of exciting menus. All offerings include free flowing sparkling wine.

\$35.00 per ADULT
\$15.00 per CHILD (4 to 11 yrs. old)

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

ISLA CAFE

Christmas Eve Dinner
December 24, 2019
6pm-10pm

Christmas Day Brunch
December 25, 2019
11am-2pm

New Years Day Brunch
January 01, 2020
11am-2pm

For Reservations please call (670) 234-6601 Ext. 742/743 Leisure•Comfort•Kanoa• Like/Follow us on *Resident discount applies with valid CNMI ID

CHRISTMAS

From Page 23



Kuen-Hee Han says that the strongest Christmas tradition that she remembers about Koreans is they buy Christmas cakes and light it. "There was a fancy bakery in my building and they told me that it is during Christmas that they see a high record for cake sales. My daughter and I celebrate Christmas here by making traditional butter cookies laced with almond extract and orange essence. We also watch White Christmas every year."

In Fiji, Christmas is not an integral part of the Hindu religion, according to **Prem Singh**. "Nevertheless, for my family back home, it has always been a time of merrymaking and fun. It is the festive time of the year where people of any race and color celebrate. During Christmas, we prepare our favorite meals—goat curry and lovo have always been the highlights on our table. We also exchange gifts, eat Christmas fruit cakes, [drink] soft drinks, and [eat] canned fruits. Sounds unusual but true."



Jessica Carlson has warm memories of Christmas time in her hometown in Idaho. "We would take the children to the mall to visit Santa. While there, we would also ride on the train and carousel and stop at Five Guys on the way home for a treat. At home, we would chop down a tree from our yard to decorate. We also make home-made cookies shaped like snowflakes and reindeers. A few of those cookies are always left for Santa with some milk!"

"Merikurisumasu" is how Japanese people say their greetings this holiday and, according to Kimiko McKagan, who was born in Kyoto, not many Japanese are Christians but they still have fun on Christmas eve. "My family used to eat chicken [and] Christmas cake at dinner. When we were young, my sister, brother and I refused to go to sleep because we wanted to meet Santa Clause and, of course, we always failed (laughs). But Christmas Day morning was always the best because we always find gifts next to our futons."



SEASON

From Page 21

desk. For more information call (670)237-5126/5156/5104.

As if Christmas shopping isn't hard enough, what about having to figure out what to eat when you've been preoccupied with wrapping gifts that you just bought? Eating at home with ready-to-eat meals is a viable option.

Let Shirley's Coffee Shop in Garapan and Susupe cater your Christmas party! Place your orders now. Shirley's also offers gift certificates worth \$10, \$20 and \$25, a perfect gift for everyone. For more information call (670)233-4519 (Garapan) and (670)235-5379 (Susupe).

Herman's Modern Bakery offers holiday dinner packages from Dec. 9 to Jan. 7 or while supplies last.

For only \$59.75, Package 1, includes a 9-12-lb ham, 2 lbs of mashed potatoes, 16 oz of gravy, one dozen dinner rolls and a loaf cake.

For only \$99.75, Package 2 includes a 17-20-lb smoked ham, 2 lbs of mashed potatoes, 16 oz gravy, one dozen dinner rolls, and a loaf cake.

For only \$60.75, Package 3 includes a 8-11-lb spiral ham, 2 lbs of mashed potatoes, 16 oz of gravy, one dozen dinner rolls, and a loaf cake.

For only \$91.75, Package 4 includes a 20-22-lb turkey, 2 lbs stuffing, 2 lbs mashed potatoes, 16 oz gravy, one dozen dinner rolls, and a loaf cake.

For only \$101.75, Package 5 includes 25-28 lbs of pork leg, 4 lbs of red rice, and two loaf cakes.

For only \$341.75, Package 6, includes a 19.50-22.50 lbs of prime rib, 2 lbs of mashed potatoes, 16 oz of gravy, one dozen dinner rolls, and 2lbs of fruit cake.

For only \$89.75, Package 7 includes a 7-9-lb boneless rib eye roll, 2 lbs of mashed potatoes, 16 oz gravy, one dozen dinner rolls, and two lbs fruit cake.

For only \$105.75, Combo Package 1 includes a 9-12-lb picnic ham, 12-14-lb turkey, 2 lbs stuffing, 2 lbs mashed potatoes, 16 oz gravy, one dozen dinner rolls, and a loaf cake.

For only \$71.75, Combo Package 2 includes 6-7-lb spiral ham, two 5.5-6-lb whole chicken, 2 lbs of mashed potatoes, 16 oz gravy, one dozen dinner rolls, and a loaf cake.

Herman's Modern Bakery also offers an a la carte menu, price ranges from \$7.75-\$115.75 and a side menu, price ranging from \$1.25-\$15.75. All dessert cakes are 10% off.

For more information call (670)234-1726. No phone call order(s) will be accepted, please place all orders at least 24 hours in advance. Cancellation less than 24 hours will not be accepted.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

2020

NEW YEAR'S EVE COUNTDOWN PARTY

PIC BEACHFRONT on DECEMBER 31, 2019

* DOOR OPENS AT 9:00PM *

All night entertainment, champagne toast, Raffle and fireworks! Enjoy the unlimited beverages from 9:00pm - 12:30am

	Local Guest	Other Hotel Guest
ADULT	\$25	\$40
CHILD	\$5	\$10

Tickets available at PIC Frontdesk

Special variety of international cuisines will be available for sale all night

SPECIAL GUESTS:

R-FUNKIST & ULALA SESSION

ENTERTAINMENT FEATURING:

SAIPAN MUSIC AND DANCE STUDIO (SMADS),
PIC BAND, S.E.A. CLUBMATES AND CULTURAL DANCE

For inquiries please call 237 - 5126 / 5156 / 5104

Pairing your favorite dishes with the *right wine*

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

This Christmas, make space for Marpac Saipan's exciting wine offerings from WENTE Vineyards, whether something to serve for guests or something to give as presents.

To start off, it is good to know what kind of wine goes with what dish, as pairing your wine with the right dish is as much like love and marriage as it is also an art—it has to be the right combination so you enjoy every minute of it.

In the movie *French Kiss*, Meg Ryan's character described drinking wine as giving someone a "hint of sophistication and lacking in pretention." This is particularly true when drank moderately and responsibly. So in choosing the perfect WENTE Vineyards wine this season, be bold in your choices and may you create a match made in heaven.

Marpac resident manager Guy F. Pudney said these wines are available in almost all groceries on island, at all Joeten supermarkets, Ming Yang, Happy Market in As Lito, New XO, all Twins Markets, R&J Liquor Store, I love Saipan, Triple J Payless, at the Aqua Resort Club, at Salty's, Joe's Bar, Thai House, and Godfather's.

For cheese and meat lovers (whether lamb, beef, chicken, or pork), **2016 WENTE Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon** is the perfect match. This bottle is a great representation of a Livermore Valley Cabernet, evoking dark berries such as blackberry that's completed by pink peppercorn and a layer of cocoa dust. It is aged for 18 months in 40% new and 60% second- and third-use French oak barrels.

Experienced wine drinkers call it "Cab" for short. This wine has a velvety taste and would be great to drink immediately or stored in your cellar.



The **2014 WENTE Vineyards Sandstone Merlot** is best paired with chicken and light meats and slightly spiced dark meats. This wine is also perfect on warm days or cold nights as every sip exhibits beautiful aromas of spiced cherry with a focus on dark fruits such as blueberry or boysenberry.

Merlot is referred as "smooth and easy to drink" whether in big groups such as reunions or family gatherings or on intimate dates. The wine has been aged for 24 months in neutral French and Eastern European oak barrels.



For dishes that brings out island specialties such as seafood and salads, the **2017 WENTE Vineyards Louis Mel Sauvignon Blanc** is the ideal match. This wine has crisp aromatics from lemon zest, grapefruit, and boxwood. Aged in stainless steel tanks, it gives wine drinkers a rounded mouthfeel and a bright lingering acidity taste.

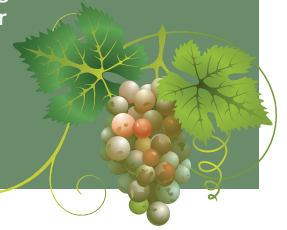
This wine can be taken indoors, dining al fresco style or while sitting on beach chairs watching the sun go down over Micro Beach.

Cooking meat, seafood dishes, pizza or pasta? The **2015 WENTE Beyer Ranch Zinfandel** is the one to pick up from the store. This wine's top notes evoke luscious fruits such as red cherry, boysenberry and fig. It is aged in a combination of stainless steel tanks and neutral oak barrels.



Went fishing and caught salmon for grilling? Fish and chicken are the perfect match for the **2017 Riva Ranch Vineyard Chardonnay**. The taste opens up layers of tropical fruit and toast, similar to grilled pineapple and graham cracker.

This wine is aged for eight months where the wine underwent 100% malolactic fermentation.



Once Upon a Wine

WENTE
VINEYARDS

Follow us on | **Current**
@currentcnmi




 HYATT
REGENCY
SAIPAN

YOUR FAMILY AND HOME, *Celebrate the Holiday* @HYATT REGENCY SAIPAN

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

24 DECEMBER 2019, 6:00 PM through 9:00PM

Kili Café & Terrace

Price: US\$65 per person

US\$45 per person for Club at the Hyatt members

Miyako

For the authentic cultural dinner and atmosphere, celebrate your night before Christmas with an amazing dinner buffet at Miyako serving a rich variety of traditional Japanese cuisines.

Price: US\$65 per person

US\$45 per person for Club at the Hyatt members

Giovanni's

Price: US\$85 per person

US\$55 per person for Club at the Hyatt members

As an added special offer, you can indulge in our free flowing beverage package for US\$12 per person for 2 hours. Selections of house wines, beer, soda and iced-tea.

Teppanyaki

Price: US\$120 per person

Club at the Hyatt members welcome

As an added special offer, you can indulge in our free flowing beverage package for US\$12 per person for 2 hours. Selections of house wines, beer, soda and iced-tea.

CHRISTMAS DAY BRUNCH

25 DECEMBER 2019, 10:30AM through 2:00PM

Giovanni's and Kili Café & Terrace

Price: US\$65 per person

US\$45 per person for Club at the Hyatt members

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

25 DECEMBER 2019, 6:00PM through 9:00PM

Kili Café & Terrace

Price: US\$65 per person

US\$45 per person for Club at the Hyatt members

Miyako

Price: US\$48 per person

Club at the Hyatt members welcome

Giovanni's

Price: US\$85 per person

US\$55 per person for Club at the Hyatt members

As an added special offer, you can indulge in our free flowing beverage package for US\$12 per person for 2 hours. Selections of house wines, beer, soda and iced-tea.

Teppanyaki

Price: US\$120 per person

Club at the Hyatt members welcome

As an added special offer, you can indulge in our free flowing beverage package for US\$12 per person for 2 hours. Selections of house wines, beer, soda and iced-tea.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER

31 DECEMBER 2019, 6:00PM through 9:00PM

Kili Café & Terrace

Price: US\$80 per person

US\$60 per person for Club at the Hyatt members

Miyako

For that intimate New Year's Eve dining experience, celebrate and indulge in the delicious and authentic Japanese dinner buffet selections at Miyako.

New Year's Eve authentic Japanese dinner buffet inclusive of sparkling wine, house selected beer, draft Chuhai and green tea.

Price: US\$65 per person

US\$45 per person for Club at the Hyatt members

Giovanni's

Price: US\$85 per person

US\$55 per person for Club at the Hyatt members

As an added special offer, you can indulge in our free flowing beverage package for US\$12 per person for 2 hours. Selections of house wines, beer, soda and iced-tea.

Teppanyaki

Price: US\$120 per person

Club at the Hyatt members welcome

As an added special offer, you can indulge in our free flowing beverage package for US\$12 per person for 2 hours. Selections of house wines, beer, soda and iced-tea.

NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH

01 JANUARY 2020, 10:30AM through 2:00PM

Kili Café & Terrace & Giovanni's

Price: US\$65 per person

US\$45 per person for Club at the Hyatt members

Miyako

Authentic Japanese New Year's Brunch will be featuring New Year's Day Osechi cuisines.

This delicious Miyako brunch is inclusive of free-flowing beer, sake and green tea.

Price: US\$65 per person

US\$45 per person for Club at the Hyatt members

RESERVATIONS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL +1 670 234 1234 EXT. 26

Business

SeaFix secures \$15.2M contact from Navy

SeaFix Inc. has been awarded a \$15.2 million firm-fixed-price, cost-reimbursement, indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity contract with a four-year ordering period for Navy Watercraft Afloat Maintenance Services.

This contract provides for full range of logistics support services to include maintenance and associated material management for Afloat Navy Lighterage in support of the Marine Corps Prepositioning Program and deployed forces world-wide.

This contract includes one six-month option period which, if exercised, would bring the cumulative value of this contract to \$18,930,294.


Work will be performed outside the continental U.S. aboard Military Sealift Command Ships (98%), primarily in Guam, Saipan, Diego Garcia, and South Korea; and in Jacksonville, Florida (2%).

Work is expected to be completed Jan. 14, 2024. If all options are exercised, work will continue through July 14, 2024. No funds will be obligated at the time of award; funds will be obligated on individual task orders as they are issued. This contract was competitively solicited and procured via the Federal Business Opportunity website as a total HUBZone set-aside, with two offers received. The Marine

Corps, Blount Island Command, Jacksonville, Florida, is the contracting activity (M67004-20-D-0002).

SeaFix is the premier ship repair and maintenance company in Micronesia providing steel fabrication, mechanical repairs and industrial painting/corrosion control for local businesses and residents and for vessels calling at Saipan.

On its website, SeaFix said its objectives are simple: Management and staff are committed to delivering high quality, superior value work without compromising safe working practices. SeaFix strictly adheres to federal, state, and local regulations. *(PR)*



TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
“Car Rental Concessions”

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-20
for
CPA Concession No. CRT-2020-01
CPA Concession No. CRT-2020-02

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of two (2) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Tinian International Airport (“Car Rental Concessions”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Tinian International Airport for a period of two years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-002-20 is **December 20, 2019**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on January 31, 2020**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: December 17, 2019



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
AIRPORT FIRE STATION ROLL UP DOOR REPLACEMENT
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-20
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for sealed proposals for procurement, delivery and installation of eight (8) aluminum brand new roll up doors for the bays located at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The work shall include all design, materials, labor and equipment necessary to achieve the finished products, along with testing and commissioning in compliance with the items in the scope of work.

The Scope of Work (SOW) may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, may be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

A site visit may be requested by each proposer and will be coordinated with the CPA's Airport Fire Chief, Frederick Pangelinan at telephone number 670-288-0091.

Questions shall be submitted in writing to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office or via email at wprater@cpa.gov.mp or cpa.engr@pticom.com by no later than 5:00 p.m., **Monday, January 13, 2020**. All responses to questions or requests for information will be provided to all proposers who have picked up a proposal package.

Proposers shall submit one original and four (4) copies of the proposals, sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **“Proposal for Procurement, Delivery and Installation of Eight Roll Up Doors for Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, CPA-SA-001-20”**. Proposals must be submitted no later than **5:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2020**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

PROPOSERS SHALL PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO ALL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS DETAILED IN THE SCOPE OF WORK, AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AS DETAILED ABOVE.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: December 17, 2019



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES
FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
COMMUTER TERMINAL ACCESS ROAD PAVING
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-007-18

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Construction Management Services for the Commuter Terminal Access Road Paving Project at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this RFQ shall be addressed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager and delivered to the CPA Executive Director's office, faxed to (670) 234-5962, or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than **Friday, December 27, 2019, 5:00 p.m., local time**.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications. Qualification statements shall be submitted by no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2020 (CHST)**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.


The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: December 10, 2019



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTICE


Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that the Board of Directors will be holding a special Board meeting on Friday, December 20, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Saipan.

AGENDA
A. Preliminary Matter:
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes – November 08, 2019.
B. Public Comment(s)
C. Special Meeting Items:
1. Employment Contract: Deputy Director
2. Employment Contract: Executive Director
D. Executive Session (if needed)
E. Miscellaneous/Announcements
F. Adjournment

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit will be imposed for oral testimony.

Kimberlyn King-Hinds
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

Date: December 17, 2019



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>
Rota Field Office: Tel: (670) 532-9410 Fax: (670) 532-9441 | Tinian Field Office: Tel: (671) 433-9213 Fax: (670) 433-3690


AMENDED PUBLIC NOTICE
12/20/19
Notice for Public Comment
Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Program Year/ IDIS No.:	Program	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget	Proposed Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
2018/691	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Children's Park Roof	CNMI Office of Grants Management	\$287,212.40	(\$106,466.00)	\$180,746.40	\$287,212.40
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:					
2018/699	CDBG	Purchase of Fire Pumper Truck for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services	CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Services	\$450,000.00	\$106,466.00	\$556,466.00	\$450,000.00
		Total Reprogrammed to Activities:			\$106,466.00		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) that we publish a "Public Notice" on reprogramming of funds over \$50,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central office located in Garapan, Saipan on or before January 7, 2019, no later than 4:30 p.m. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at (670)234-6866/9447.


/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Date: December 17, 2019



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-20-004

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019, 2020 & 2021

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for services of a U.S. Certified Public Accounting Firm/Individual with knowledge, skill, and experience in auditing (1) financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards of the U.S. and; (2) federal awards programs in accordance with the Single Audit Act and U.S. Office of Management and Budget requisites

- Provide assistance to the CUC management with the preparation of the annual financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
- Ensure that the financial statements and auditor's reports also meet any specific requirements contained in agreements or other contractual requirements relative to financial statement presentation and the audits.
- Submit the draft financial statements and accompanying auditor's reports to CUC management no later than January 31st of each year, and issue the final reports no later than February 28th of each year.
- Provide 15 bound copies of the final financial statements and accompanying auditor's report
- Provide an electronic copy (e.g., .pdf format) of the final report to the CUC.

Auditors are responsible to review the 2019, 2020 & 2021 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets for each fiscal year.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set. The \$100 package fee will be waived for firms that had previously registered and paid for a CUC-RFP-19-037 package.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Proposal & One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in a separate sealed envelopes marked "CUC-RFP-20-004, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2019, 2020 & 2021" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 23, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional RFP will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.


All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 10, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Greg Cruz, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address greg.cruz@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director


MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



UNITED STATES

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 1st Quarter General Membership Meeting on December 30, 2019, from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm at the Kanoa Resort, Seaside Hall.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of December 30, 2019

IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2019

V. Reports

a. Chairperson

b. State Plan Committee Chairperson

c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson

d. Executive Director

VI. Old Business

a. Disability Resource & Training Center Update

b. Joint Meeting with CNMI UCEDD Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) Update

c. AVA App Demonstration Update

VII. New Business

a. International Day of People with Disabilities

b. International Day of Acceptance – January 17-18, 2020

c. Sibling Network

VIII. Action Items

a. Creation of Ad Hoc Committee on Accessibility

b. Formalization of the Disability Network Partners

IX. Miscellaneous

X. Next Meeting – January 2020

XI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Jan Barcinas
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

Nation

After vote, Pelosi stokes impeachment trial uncertainty

WASHINGTON (AP)—Minutes after the House impeached President Donald Trump, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi threw uncertainty into the process by refusing to say, repeatedly, when or whether she would send two articles to the Senate for a trial.

Her comments came as a surprise in a news conference late Wednesday that was intended to express Democrats' somber closing message after voting to impeach Trump for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. She started by praising her fellow Democrats for having "moral courage" and said it was "a great day for the Constitution of the United States of America."

But then she declined to say when she would send the articles to the Republican-led Senate. Until the articles are submitted, the Senate cannot hold the trial that is nearly certain to acquit the president.

Pelosi said House Democrats could not name impeachment managers—House prosecutors who make the case for Trump's conviction and removal from office—until they know more about how the Senate will conduct a trial.

"We cannot name man-

agers until we see what the process is on the Senate side," Pelosi said. "And I would hope that that will be soon. ... So far we haven't seen anything that looks fair to us. So hopefully it will be fair.


And when we see what that is, we'll send our managers."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., rejected a proposal earlier this week from Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., to call several witnesses. McConnell also said that he is coordinating with the White House and declared that "I am not an impartial juror."

Pelosi said that McConnell "says it's OK for the foreman of the jury to be in cahoots with the lawyers of the accused. That doesn't sound right to us."

Schumer and Pelosi are set to meet Thursday morning, according to a person familiar with the planning who was not authorized to discuss the private meeting.

Asked again if she could guarantee that she would send the articles to the Senate, Pelosi said at the news confer-



Pelosi

ence: "That would have been our intention." But they will see what the Senate decides, she said.

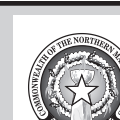
"We are not having that discussion. We have done what we set out to do," Pelosi said.

An aide to McConnell said he did not have an immediate comment on Pelosi's remarks. But he tweeted that McConnell would speak about "House Democrats' precedent-breaking impeachment of the President of the United States" on Thursday morning.

Rhode Island Rep. David Cicilline, a member of Pelosi's leadership team, said after her remarks that Democrats want impeachment proceedings that are "judicious and responsible and deliberative."


He said that while Senate will decide its own procedures, "the speaker's only point is before she sends it over she needs to understand what that is" because it will influence who the impeachment managers are.

Asked about never sending the articles over, Cicilline said, "I would not speculate that anyone's even contemplating that."



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Tel. (670) 234-6866 / 234-9447 / 234-7689 / 234-7670
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

Arnold I. Palacios
Lt. Governor

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Income Housing Tax Credits (Credits) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The Credits are available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists.

NMHC has developed a QAP for 2019 - 2020 and is available at NMHC's office and website. The QAP describes the basis that NMHC will use to allocate Credits. NMHC may allocate **\$146,328** in Credits for the 2019 program year and approximately **\$3,166,875** in Credits for the 2020 program year.

Application for Credits

Owners/Developers wishing to apply for the Credits should obtain and complete a LIHTC Application. The LIHTC Application may be obtained from NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 or through our website at www.nmhc.gov.net.

Owners/Developers must file the completed LIHTC Application along with the **\$2,500.00 Application Fee** at NMHC's office by the Application Deadline of **4:30 pm, January 31, 2020**. NMHC staff will review the application and will notify the Owner/Developer of any deficiencies by 15 days time or **February 17, 2020**. The owner/developer will be given 14 days to correct any deficiencies. Any corrections or supplemental information requested by NMHC must be received by **4:30 pm March 2, 2020**. The projects will be scored and recommendations made to the NMHC Board of Directors for approval at its **April/May 2020** Board Meeting.

Notification of Awards

NMHC will notify Owners/Developers of the projects receiving Credits thirty (30) days following the April/May 2020 Board of Directors Meeting. The reservation letter must be signed and returned to NMHC by no later than thirty (30) days from the date of notification.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/9447.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangements, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/9447.

Asia

IN 2009 MASSACRE

PH convicts key clan members



AP

Relatives of the accused walk outside a court where a multiple murder case against scions of a political clan and their gunmen are set to be decided in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig city, Philippines, Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine court on Thursday found key members of a powerful political clan guilty of a 2009 massacre in a southern province that left 57 people, including 32 media workers, dead in a brazen act that horrified the world.

The regional trial court led by Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes sentenced them to life imprisonment, which is 40 years in the Philippines, the maximum punishment allowed by law. They were also ordered to compensate the families of the victims. Several Ampatuan family members and police officers were acquitted for a lack of evidence.

Applause followed the reading of the verdict in a packed and heavily secured courtroom, where some relatives of the victims and their lawyers were present. Among the main suspects convicted was Andal Ampatuan Jr., who was accused of leading the mass murder.

The case involves more than 100 detained suspects led by members of the Ampatuan family and many police officers and government militiamen. It had dragged on in a high-profile test of the Southeast Asian nation's notoriously clogged and vulnerable judicial system. About 80 suspects remain at large.

While the mass killing has largely unraveled as an offshoot of a violent electoral rivalry common in many rural areas, it has also showcased the threats faced by journalists in the Philippines. Thirty-two of those gunned down were local reporters and media workers in the worst single attack

on journalists in the world.

"If I have the power to kill them all in a blink of an eye, I would have done it. But I realized in the end that I'm not a demon like them," said Mary Grace Morales. Her husband, a reporter of a local provincial newspaper, and her elder sister, the paper's publisher, were among those killed mostly in a blaze of automatic rifle fire as they begged for their lives.

"What I can accept is a 100% conviction of all the accused," Morales told The Associated Press in an interview on the eve of the court verdict. "An acquittal of even one of the principal suspects will be unacceptable."

Morales, her daughter and a handful of close relatives of the slain journalists were flown to Manila with the help of a media watchdog, the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, to hear the judgement.

In a candlelit protest Wednesday night in a park, they held portraits of their slain relatives and joined reporters in calling for justice, the defense of press freedom and the conviction of the Ampatuan family members, led by Ampatuan Jr., who is also known by his nickname Unsay.

Then a town mayor, Ampatuan Jr. allegedly led nearly 200 armed followers who blocked a seven-vehicle convoy carrying the wife, sisters and other relatives and lawyers of Esmel Mangudadatu, a politician who decided to run for governor of Maguindanao province. He challenged the powerful Ampatuan clan, who held sway over

almost every aspect of life in the impoverished region wrecked by a Muslim insurgency, witnesses testified.

The journalists joined the convoy on Nov. 23, 2009, to cover the filing of candidacy of Mangudadatu in an election office in Maguindanao's capital. Mangudadatu, now a legislator in the House of Representatives, was not in the convoy for security reasons.

The gunmen commandeered the convoy, including the passengers of two unsuspecting cars that got stuck in the traffic, to a nearby hilltop, where a waiting backhoe had dug huge pits to be used in burying the victims and their vehicles.

Ampatuan Jr. and his followers allegedly opened fire on the victims at close range and hurriedly escaped after sensing that army troops were approaching. The badly mutilated bodies were found inside the vans, sprawled on the ground or buried in the pits with some of the vehicles, in a gruesome scene that drew international outrage and shocked many even in a country long used to political violence.

Ampatuan Jr. along with his father and other siblings and relatives were placed under arrest after negotiations with officials of then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. The Ampatuan clan, backed by government firepower and armed militias, had helped quell Muslim guerrillas in the region.

Ampatuan Jr.'s father died in detention in 2015. The family patriarch allegedly approved the plot over family dinner, according to the testimony of one witness.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Gaza militants fire rocket toward Israel, drawing airstrikes

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired a rocket toward southern Israel early Thursday and Israeli aircraft responded with airstrikes in the Hamas-ruled territory. The Israeli military said air defenses intercepted the rocket that was fired toward Sderot town. Two hours later, successive airstrikes targeted militant sites in Gaza City. The Israeli military issued a statement saying that the target was "a Hamas weapons manufacturing site." The fierce bombings illuminated the sky in northwest Gaza City and the sound jolted residents out of sleep. There were no reports of injuries. No Palestinian group claimed responsibility for the rocket fire. Israel usually blames the militant Hamas group for all attacks emanating from Gaza. With help from Egypt, Qatar and the United Nations, Hamas and Israel are seeking to strengthen "understandings" meant to boost calm and prevent further cross-border violence. Through the truce, Hamas hopes to mitigate the economic and health effects of a 12-year-old Israeli-Egyptian blockade on Gaza. On Wednesday, a Qatari envoy said Doha will continue its aid projects in Gaza through 2020, which is crucial to support calm. The airstrikes Thursday hit near the hotel in which the envoy, Mohammed Al-Emadi, was staying.

Prosecutors order arrest of Bolivian ex-President Morales

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)—Prosecutors in Bolivia's capital issued an arrest warrant against ousted President Evo Morales on Wednesday, accusing him of sedition and terrorism. Interior Minister Arturo Murillo recently brought charges against Morales, alleging he promoted violent clashes that led to 35 deaths during disturbances before and after he left office. Officials say he ordered supporters to blockade cities in order to force the ouster of interim President Jeanine Áñez, who took over when Morales resigned on Nov. 10 after a wave of protests and under pressure from the police and military. Morales, who first flew to Mexico and now is based in Argentina, has repeatedly denied the charges as a setup. Morales said Tuesday that he would campaign

for the presidential candidate of his party in elections expected within the next several months, though a date has not been set. The candidate from Morales' Movement Toward Socialism party is yet to be chosen, and the former president cannot run in the new elections. Bolivia's first indigenous president has described the movement that pressured him to leave as a coup d'état. Critics of the long-ruling leader had accused him of using fraud to win a fourth straight term in office in an Oct. 20 vote. An audit by the Organization of American States backed up the allegations, saying it found evidence of vote-rigging. Morales retains a strong following in Bolivia and has an ally in the government of Argentine President Alberto Fernández, who took office two days before the former Bolivian leader arrived in the country. Bolivia's interim government has expressed concern that Morales could use Buenos Aires as a campaign headquarters and might plot his return home.

Clash at UN Security Council over cross-border aid for Syria

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Russia and China are clashing with many other U.N. Security Council nations over the delivery of humanitarian aid across borders and conflict lines to more than 1 million Syrians in mainly rebel-held areas. Since 2014, the Security Council has sent aid through four border crossings — Bab al-Salam and Bab al-Hawa in Turkey, Al Yarubiyah in Iraq, and Al-Ramtha in Jordan. The sponsors of this year's aid resolution—Germany, Belgium and Kuwait—circulated a draft that has been discussed for several weeks that would add a new crossing point in Turkey and extend cross-border operations for a year. Russia and China, which are allies of Syrian President Bashar Assad, circulated a rival resolution Monday that seeks to close the crossing points in Iraq and Jordan, leaving only two in Turkey while not adding the third proposed in the rival resolution. And it would renew the cross-border operation for only six months. Envoys from the 10 elected members of the Security Council, which serve two-year terms, stood outside the chamber Tuesday to express support for renewing the cross-border "mechanism." They warned that "the con-

sequences of a non-renewal of the mechanism would be disastrous." The 15-member council discussed the rival resolutions behind closed doors Wednesday. Russian Ambassador Vassily Neben-zia said the sponsors' resolution "has little to do with the real situation on the ground" and is "unacceptable and inviable," indicating that Moscow would veto it if it is put to a vote. Britain's ambassador, Karen Pierce, countered that "in the last few year the situation has not changed materially to obviate the need for cross-border aid."

Panama: Prison gunbattle toll 15, corrections chiefs fired

PANAMA CITY (AP)—Authorities on Wednesday raised to 15 the death toll from a gunfight the previous day inside a lockup near Panama City and fired top penitentiary officials amid an investigation into what touched off the country's deadliest incident of prison violence. President Laurentino Cortizo ordered the dismissal of prisons director Walter Hernández and Hernández's No. 2, as well as other officials responsible for police guard at La Joyita prison and another one nearby. "This is an unacceptable situation and we will make the necessary decisions," Cortizo said. The Interior Department added in a report that nine wounded prisoners remained hospitalized, including one in critical condition. Tuesday's gunbattle took place between incarcerated members of the same gang at a cellblock housing over 500 inmates. Pope Francis visited the prison in early 2019 when he came to Panama for World Youth Day. Cellphone videos that circulated on social media showed prisoners running and shooting. Police later seized various handguns and Kalashnikov rifles that had been apparently smuggled in. Authorities acknowledge that such smuggling is a longtime problem, and weapons have been used in inmate disputes before—though experts said this was the most serious incident of prison violence so far. Although gangs have less of a presence in Panama than in other Central American nations such as El Salvador and Honduras, observers say groups have proliferated in recent decades that are primarily dedicated to drug trafficking and are blamed for many of the country's killings.

Life & Style

Singer Camila Cabello apologizes for past racist language

NEW YORK (AP)—Pop singer Camila Cabello is apologizing for past racist language she used on social media.

The Grammy-nominated singer wrote on Wednesday that she is sorry for using offensive and hurtful words on social media as a teen, and now that she is 22, she has grown up.

"When I was younger, I used language that I'm deeply ashamed of and will regret

forever," Cabello shared in a lengthy social media post. "I was uneducated and ignorant and once I became aware of the history and the weight and the true meaning behind this horrible and hurtful language, I was deeply embarrassed I ever used it."

The former Fifth Harmony singer has been accused of using racial remarks in now



Cabello

deleted Tumblr accounts. This week social media users posted screenshots of Cabello's old and offensive posts, forcing the performer to issue an apology.

"As much as I wish I could, I can't go back in time and change things I said in the past. But once you know better, you do better and that's all I can do," she

continued.

Cabello's hits include "Havana" and "Señorita" with Shawn Mendes. She released a new album early this month. She closed her statement saying she would use her platform to "speak out about injustice and inequality."

"I'll continue doing that," she wrote. "I can't say enough how deeply sorry and ashamed I feel, and I apologize again from the bottom of my heart."

Couple quarrels over money spent on their granddaughter

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are retired and financially comfortable. I have my spending money, and he has his. The problem is, he doesn't want me to spend any money on my granddaughter.

I pick her up from school every day, give her an afternoon snack, and on Friday, we stop and get something special. My husband thinks my daughter should pay for my gas and provide snacks for her child. I disagree. I love doing things for my granddaughter and buying things for her every once in a while. When I do, he goes nuts, packs up his clothes and goes to his camp. After a few days he will call.

I have lived with this behavior all our married life (55 years). He has fussed so many times and made me so depressed, I just want to die. He says he loves me, but I wonder. If he loved me, he would want me to be happy—doing things with my granddaughter and getting her pretty things every now and then because it makes me happy.

I don't go out and get my hair or nails done. I don't drink or smoke, and we don't go out to eat at expensive restaurants. His complaining is driving me crazy, and I can't live like this anymore. She's 10 and growing up so fast. All I want is to enjoy her the little while I have left. Advice?

BLOCKED GRANDMA IN LOUISIANA

DEAR GRANDMA: After 55 years of tolerating your husband's tantrums and controlling behavior, I seriously doubt you are going to get him to change. You can, however, change the way you react to it. If you have money of your own, he does not have the right to tell you how to spend it. Let him go camping, and while he's gone, enjoy your time with your granddaughter. If he "goes nuts"—which I assume means becomes verbally abusive—leave the room.

Ask yourself whether you are better off with this man or without him. And if you truly cannot live like this anymore, talk to an attorney and explore your options.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have a friend of 35 years I'll call Hank. Hank had an accident three months ago. His vehicle was totaled, and he has been depending upon us to take him grocery shopping and to various appointments. When we take him, he often adds additional stops without asking ahead of time, which turns a quick trip into a marathon shopping excursion.

We still work part-time, while Hank is retired. He is procrastinating about buying another vehicle, citing various reasons why he can't find the right one, and we are becoming exhausted from driving him around. We have mentioned several times that he needs to get a vehicle; his response is, "It's not easy."

We feel sad that our friendship has taken this turn. We have tried to be as helpful as possible, but our patience is wearing thin. What do you suggest?

WORN OUT IN THE SOUTHWEST

DEAR WORN OUT: I suggest you stop making yourselves so available when Hank asks for transportation. If you do, it may stimulate him to look more diligently for a new vehicle, or explore other rideshare options.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†
*Bernadita Jones
Castro Manalo*

Lovingly known as "Doll"

September 18, 1958 – December 16, 2019

In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents: †Manuel Manibusan Castro & †Maria Jones Castro

Brothers & Sisters: †Margarita J. Castro, †Manuel J. Castro, †Juan J. Castro, †Juana J. Castro-Dela Cruz, †Joaquin J. Castro

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband: Pedro Deleon Guerrero Manalo

Children:

Maria Ann M. and Jim S. Taman (Kenneth John Manalo/Colleen C. Borja)

Geraldine C. Manalo/Lee S. Santos (Markisha Manalo/Carlo S. Lacanlale, Aliyah Manalo/Wynona Jack, Rishka Manalo)

Pedro C. Manalo Jr./Myrna S. Aquino (Pedro A. Manalo Jr., Quinokie A. Manalo, Keahkani A. Manalo, Lei'Avanah A. Manalo)

Brothers, Sister and In-law:

Joseph DLR and Ramon Kapileo & Family
Children of †Margarita J. Castro

Joseph W. and Marilyn P. Jones & Family
Children of †Manuel J. Castro

†Juan J. and Nancy S. Castro & Family

Celina C. and †Antonio L. Kaipat & Family

Children of †Juana J. Castro and †Juan S. Dela Cruz (Doi)

†Joaquin J. and Elisa M. Castro & Family

Bonifacio J. Castro & Family

Daniel J. and Dorothy Castro & Family

Benjamin J. and Vivian Q. Castro & Family

Rosita J. Castro & Family

Edward J. and Rosa O. Castro & Family

Brothers and Sister In-law:

Ignacio A. Manalo & Family

†Jose A. and †Teresita R. Manalo & Family

†Juan DLG Manalo/Marilyn D. Manalo & Family

†Lorenzo DLG Manalo/Min Ling Manalo & Family

Roberto DLG Manalo/Elizabeth V. Manalo & Family

†Trinidad M. and †Roberto Sn Babauta & Family

Teresita DLG Hudson/†Henry Hudson & Family

†Maria A. Manalo

†Ana M. Cabrera/†Antonio C. Cabrera & Family

Dolores M. Diaz/†Jose DLG Diaz & Family

Mass of Intention for the repose of her soul is being celebrated at 6:00am every morning at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Funeral Service will be held on Monday, December 23, 2019. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to St. Jude Church at 7:30am. Responso service will be at 8:00am followed by recitation of the Holy Rosary at 8:30am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am followed by Interment Services at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be laid to peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers.

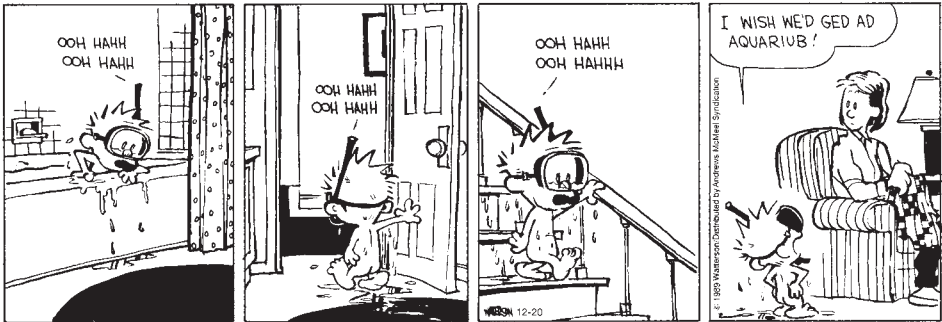
Thank You — Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Pedro DLG Manalo & Children

Pastimes

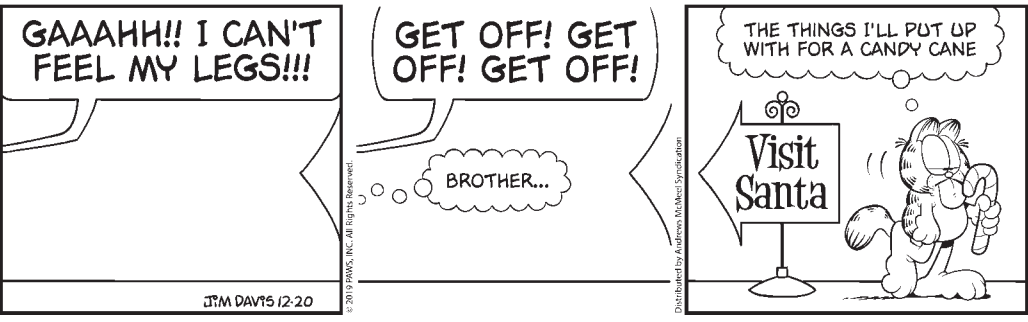
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



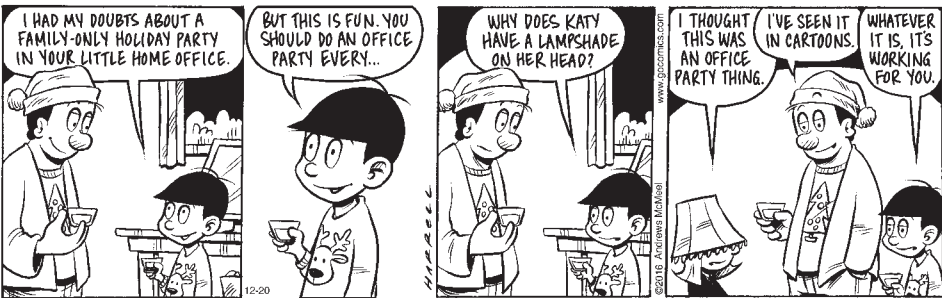
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Dining room furniture

6 Listener

9 Bro or sis

12 Tatum of "Paper Moon"

13 Work with

14 Chemical suffix

15 Dolphins' home

16 Present attachment

18 Tidy up

20 Waikiki's island

21 Watch chain

23 Wd. from Roget

24 "Rubber Capital"

25 "Phooey!"

27 Quiet partner?

29 Ruling group

31 Model's path

35 — Ark

37 Shopper's delight

DOWN

1 Male cat

2 Blackbird

3 Squishy chair

4 Hobbling

5 Inventor

6 Oregon

7 Z —

8 Game caller

9 Ravi's instrument

10 The Gem State

11 Com-menced

17 Mementos

19 Hyper-personality

21 Dime portrait

22 Tram load

24 Prefix with

26 Thrilling feeling

28 Incendi-ary

30 Yr. parts

32 Face cloth

33 Carte lead-in

34 "Uh-huh"

36 Altitude

38 Gambling game

39 "Paradise Lost" archangel

40 Identified

42 Allied (with)

45 Con-front

46 Rani's wrap

48 Attorney's field

50 Hit CBS series

51 Still

Solution time: 25 mins.

ALMA DOT ASTI
LEAR IRA TWIN
GIGI VOL REEK
ASIAGO CRIERS
NOR IST
NAPA CHICKPEA
TLE EON ELL
PEAGREEN RAMP
SIT USE
MOORED EIFFEL
ABOUT AWW URGE
SOPH LAD TOGS
TESS IDO EGOS

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jonah Hill, 36; David Cook, 37; Nicole de Boer, 49; Joel Gretsch, 56.

Happy Birthday: Listen carefully, ask questions and don't misinterpret the messages or signals you are receiving. Clarity will be what's needed this year to bring about the positive changes you want to make. Trust, loyalty and persistence will help you turn what you don't like into something spectacular. Put in the time and effort, and you will reap the rewards. Your numbers are 5, 17, 20, 28, 37, 41, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get serious about the future. Talk about lifestyle changes and what you would like to happen in the not-too-distant future. You are overdue for a change, and the best place to start is with someone you love. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make a change for the right reason. Trying to appease someone instead of pleasing yourself will lead to resentment. Be open to discussion, but make sure the results are equally as fair for you as they are for others. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Spend more time on personal needs, health and nurturing close relationships. Visiting friends and family can be fun, but don't take on too much or subject yourself to unsavory situations that could jeopardize your integrity or ethics. Stick to the truth. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Open up, be honest and be willing to listen to someone's perspective. Keep your emotions

well-hidden until you know where you stand. Formulating a plan before you leap into action is in your best interest. A change is encouraged. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't summit change if it's not required. A wait-and-see approach for the time being is favored. Focus on home, health and sorting out your personal finances. Don't be fooled by an empty promise someone offers. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Rely on what and who you know to help you get what you want. Those closest to you will oppose some of your plans. Ulterior motives should be considered before moving forward. Take the path that will help you the most. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Surround yourself with supportive individuals who are interested in getting involved in your plans. A change that takes place at home or where joint money is concerned should be handled carefully. Be honest with yourself and others. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be charged up and ready to go. Sign up for events that will expand your outlook, not steal your time and energy. A trip to visit old friends or relatives will be enlightening. Pay attention to someone going through tough times. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Refuse to take part in gossip or offer information that you haven't fact-checked. Rely on your ability to communicate clearly to ensure that you are trustworthy. Mix business with pleasure, and build strong relationships. Romance is on the rise. ****

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A change of scenery will be useful for you. Getting together with an old friend will make you realize what you have missed out on and how to rectify the problem. Consider your health, and implement a better lifestyle moving forward. **



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Spruce up your image, and prepare to enjoy the upcoming events. Don't let what others do ruin your day or stand in your way. Be a leader, not a follower, and you will make better life decisions. Romance is on the rise. *****



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Deception is apparent. Choose your words wisely, honor your promises, and be sure to gather information from a reliable source. Put your energy where it counts most, and don't feel bad or guilty saying no to someone asking for too much. ***

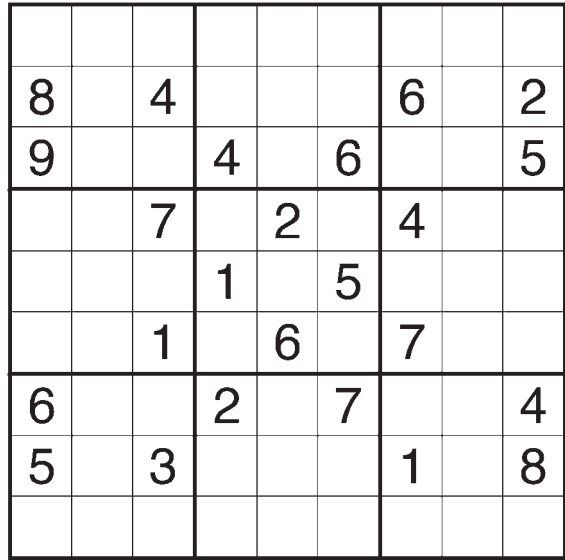
Birthday Baby: You are charming, sociable and upbeat. You are appreciative and agreeable.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

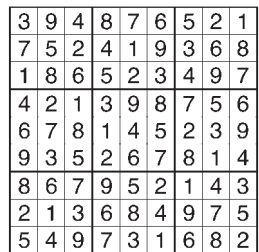


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

12/19

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ARE YOU PERKY?

Solution: 8 letters



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12/20

Active, Afternoon, Amusing, Beautiful, Bright, Chatting, Chipper, Classy, Confident, Dapper, Dashing, Family, Feelings, Friendly, Funny, Games, Happy, Hopeful, Hugs, Humorous, Jaunty, Jolly, Kiss, Lighthearted, Lively, Mind, Morning, Playful, Pleasant, Please, Refresh, Smart, Smile, Soul, Sparkly, Spiffy, Stylish, Sunshine, Vigorous, Wild

Yesterday's Answer: Breakdowns

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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Two Bedroom Apartment for Rent

Location: As Lito

\$1,500/month (including power and water)

- 1000 s.q. m. each unit
- 5 mins to Airport 12 mins to Garapan
- Fully furnished
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 - LED TV with TV Box, microwave, washing machine
- Internet (WIFI)

Good for Long-Term
or Short-Term
employees
Contact Danny
at 287-2387 for
more information



Commonwealth Zoning Board (Saipan Zoning Office) JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Recruitment for Zoning Administrator

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Administrator. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Zoning Administrator manages the Zoning Office which is responsible for providing expertise and technical assistance to the Board, managing and processing permit inquiries and applications, maintaining record and data systems, inspecting and enforcing compliance, interpreting the Saipan Zoning Law, educating the public, staffing the Zoning Office, coordinating with government and federal agencies, preparing updates to the Saipan Zoning Law and Board Regulations, preparing and tracking budgets, and preparing reports and grant applications (see Section 310 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 at www.zoning.gov.mp).

The minimum requirements for the position are a baccalaureate degree, but preferably a graduate degree, in planning or a related field, and five years of progressive experience in land use planning, comprehensive planning, or land use administration (CNMI Zoning Code § 7222). The maximum salary is \$65,000. Health and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp.

Application submittals should be addressed to Mr. Mariano Taitano, Board Chairman, and must be received at the Zoning Office by **January 7, 2020 at 4:00pm**. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, US mail or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application for Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be obtained from the Zoning Office or the Office of Personnel Management. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or their immediate relatives.

Send submittals to:

ATTN: Mr. Mariano Taitano, Board Chairman

Email Acting Administrator: Yubert.Alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp
Fax: (670) 234-9666

US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA

Hand Deliver to: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 07-2019

Opening date: December 20, 2019

Closing date: January 10, 2020

- Positions:
- (1) Electrician (Saipan)
 - (1) ARFF General Maintenance-I (Saipan)
 - (2) Custodial-I (Saipan)
 - (1) ARFF Trainee (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the *CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport*. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, January 10, 2020**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or hspcialist@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670)237-6500.

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CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

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Commonwealth Zoning Board (Saipan Zoning Office) JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Zoning Planner

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Planner. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities: Manage complex permit applications including pre-application consultations, application intake, review for compliance, assuring compliance with timelines and public notice requirements, coordinating interagency consultations, and preparation of project recommendations and reports as assigned by the Administrator; Prepare recommended updates to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Zoning Law, Zoning Board regulations, and zoning office guidelines; Coordinate, as appropriate, with other agencies and secure project reviews and recommendations; Identify and seek resolution of interdepartmental concerns; Educate and inform the public and applicants about the Saipan Zoning Law and related permit requirements and procedures; Maintain records using paper and electronic media and a Geographic Information System; Perform other duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements: Graduation from an accredited four year college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in engineering, architecture, urban planning, environmental science, geography, economics, political science, natural science, business administration, or related field, plus a minimum of 4 years of experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, or related field. Other requirements include proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and Outlook Explorer.

The salary range is \$40,000, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Health, life, and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp. Application submittals should be addressed to Yubert Alepuyo, Acting Zoning Administrator. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application for Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be obtained from the Zoning Office or the Office of Personnel Management. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Send submittals to: E-mail: Yubert.Alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp. FAX: 670-234-9666. US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA. Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan.

The deadline to receive applications and all requirements is **December 27, 2019 at 3:00pm**.

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LOST AND FOUND

This is to inform the general public that Lixin Chen Castro has lost the following items in Garapan:

- Passport
- Birth Certificate
- Divorce Certificate
- Jewelry and Bag
- Car Ownership
- everal Cards
- Other Legal Documents

If found, please return to or call
Lixin Chen Castro at 285-3522.

DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER

New Big 3 leads Celtics past Mavericks



DALLAS (AP)—The Boston Celtics turned to a new Big Three to earn a key road win.

Kemba Walker scored 32 points and combined with teammates Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum for 82 as the Celtics defeated the Dallas Mavericks 109-103 on Wednesday night.

Brown had 26 points and Tatum added 24 to help Boston prevail on a night when both teams were missing key players and struggled to shoot 40% from the field. The trio combined for 27 of the Celtics' 33 points in the final quarter when Boston pulled away from a Mavericks team missing star guard Luka Doncic.

Boston had injuries of its own, playing without Gordon Hayward (left foot soreness) and Marcus Smart (left eye infection). No other Celtics player scored more than seven points.

"The three guys we were going to play through were very clear tonight," coach Brad Stevens said. "Those guys all had good scoring nights, thankfully."

Doncic sat out his second straight game with a right ankle sprain, and his absence was felt more than in Dallas' win Monday over Milwaukee. The Mavs scored a season-low 18 points in the third quarter and finished 15 points below their season average despite hitting a flurry of 3-pointers in the final minutes.

Kristaps Porzingis led Dallas with 23 points and 13 rebounds but fouled out in the last minute. Seth Curry added 20 points.

Jalen Brunson started at point guard in place of Doncic and tied his career high with 11 assists, but struggled with 4-for-13 shooting and had two crucial turnovers in the fourth quarter.

"Most importantly, I've got to stop turning the ball over so late in the game," Brunson said. "Two straight home games turning the ball over late—that's on me."

After falling behind early in each of the first three quarters before rallying, Boston jumped out front in the fourth with Brown hitting a 20-footer and Tatum a 3 to build an 83-78 lead. Tatum converted a three-point play with 6:38 to go to give the Celtics an 88-80 edge. After two Dallas free throws, Walker hit a 3 and then made four free throws in a row to extend the lead to double digits.

"Our development together is getting better," Walker said. "Chemistry's getting better each and every day."

Dallas hit five 3s in the final 3:34 to trim the deficit.



AP
Boston Celtics guard Kemba Walker (8) dribbles the ball as Dallas Mavericks guard Jalen Brunson (13) defends during the first half of an NBA game Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2019, in Dallas.

Danilo Gallinari and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander each scored 20 points and Chris Paul added 18 for the Thunder, who rallied from 26 points down to beat the Chicago Bulls on Monday.

Brandon Clarke scored 27 points, Jonas Valanciunas scored 24 and Ja Morant added 22 for the Grizzlies.

Nuggets 113, Magic 104

In Denver, Jamal Murray and Paul Millsap helped fuel a 24-0 run in the third quarter and the Nuggets rallied to beat Orlando for the eighth straight time.

Murray finished with 33 points, including 13 in the pivotal third quarter. Millsap scored 14 of his 15 points during the third in his return from a strained quadriceps.

Trailing 69-50 with 9:18 left in the third, the Nuggets stormed back as they held the Magic scoreless for more than six minutes.

Nikola Jokic added 18 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds.

Nikola Vucevic scored 20 for the Magic, while D.J. Augustin added 18.

Trail Blazers 122, Warriors 112

In Portland, Damian Lillard had 31 points and a season-high 13 assists, Hassan Whiteside grabbed 23 rebounds and the Trail Blazers beat Golden State.

CJ McCollum scored 30 points and Carmelo Anthony added 17 for Portland. Whiteside also scored 16 points.

D'Angelo Russell led Golden State with 26 points and seven assists.

Lillard set the tone in the first quarter. Going against the team he grew up rooting for, Lillard had 16 points and five assists in the opening quarter to help the Blazers build a 40-29 halftime lead.

Heat 108, 76ers 104

In Philadelphia, Kendrick Nunn scored 26 points to help the Miami Heat hand the 76ers their first home loss of the season.

The 76ers had been 14-0 at home, including a 113-86 victory over the Heat last month.

Tobias Harris buried a 3-pointer for the Sixers with 25.5 seconds left that made it 106-104 and they had sudden life when Nunn missed twice at the free throw line. Al Horford, though, missed an open 3-point attempt from the wing and the Heat escaped in a thriller.

Bam Adebayo scored 23 points and Duncan Robinson had 15 for the Heat. Robinson made a pair of 3s in the fourth that stretched the lead to 14 points, and Nunn buried a 30-footer for a 99-83 lead.

Joel Embiid, who missed Sunday's rout by the Nets with an upper respiratory illness, had 22 points and 19 rebounds. Harris scored 20 points.

Jimmy Butler scored 14 points for the Heat and was pretty much a non-factor until late in his second game back in Philadelphia.

Pelicans 107, Timberwolves 99

In Minneapolis, Brandon Ingram scored 34 points and New Orleans snapped its 13-game losing streak with a win over short-handed Minnesota.

Jrue Holiday had 18 points and Lonzo Ball added 10 points, six rebounds and six assists off the bench for New Orleans, which was coming off a 108-101 overtime loss at home to

Brooklyn a night earlier.

Playing without leading scorer and rebounder Karl-Anthony Towns, Minnesota lost its seventh straight game after shooting 38% from the field.

Raptors 112, Pistons 99

In Detroit, Kyle Lowry had 20 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for a triple-double and Toronto had an 11-0 run in the third quarter on its way to a win over the Pistons.

The Raptors were without guard Fred VanVleet because of right knee injury. Then center Marc Gasol left in the first quarter with a left hamstring strain. Toronto still had enough firepower to handle the Pistons.

Detroit allowed 133 points in a loss to Washington on Monday night. The Pistons got frontcourt standouts Blake Griffin and Andre Drummond back from their injuries for this game.

Cavaliers 100, Hornets 98

In Cleveland, Collin Sexton

scored 23 points, Cedi Osman had 18 and the Cavaliers held off a late Charlotte comeback.

Cleveland, which had lost 16 of 18, led the entire game but nearly squandered a 24-point lead in the third quarter.

Terry Rozier scored a career-high 35 points for Charlotte and hit five 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, the last coming with 21 seconds remaining to cut the deficit to 100-98.

Sexton dribbled the ball off his foot and out of bounds with 16 seconds left. Rozier popped open at the top of the key for a wide-open 3 with three seconds to go, but the shot hit off the rim and Sexton grabbed the rebound to finally secure the victory for the Cavs.

Kevin Love had 16 points and 14 rebounds for Cleveland. Tristan Thompson added 14 points and 13 rebounds.

Bulls 110, Wizards 109 OT

In Washington, Wendell Carter Jr. made a layup with 9.1 seconds left in overtime, completing Chicago's rally from an

18-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat the Wizards.

Zach LaVine capped a 21-3 Bulls run with three free throws that tied the game at 96 with 5.5 seconds left in the fourth. Bradley Beal hit a jumper with 0.5 seconds remaining to put Washington ahead 98-96, but LaVine was fouled on the ensuing inbound play and hit two free throws to force OT.

Lauri Markkanen's alley-oop basket gave the Bulls their first lead since the first quarter, 106-105 with 1:47 left in overtime.

Markkanen had 31 points and nine rebounds, and LaVine added 24 points.

Davis Bertans led Washington with 26 points, and Beal finished with 22.

In his return to Washington, former Wizards player Tomas Satoransky had 17 points.

Thunder 126, Grizzlies 122

In Oklahoma City, Dennis Schroder scored 31 points, and the Thunder overcame a 24-point deficit and beat Memphis.

Champions League: Man City vs Real Madrid in Last 16

LONDON—Pep Guardiola's Manchester City will face Real Madrid in the Last 16 of the Champions League while holders Liverpool go up against Atletico Madrid.

For Liverpool, it will mean a return to Atletico's Wanda Metropolitano stadium where they lifted last season's Champions League title in May.

Elsewhere, Tottenham will face tough opposition in the shape of Bundesliga leaders, RB Leipzig.

Chelsea, meanwhile, have been drawn against Bayern Munich in a repeat of the 2012 final won by the London club.

Other stand out fixtures

from Monday's draw include Borussia Dortmund's tie against French champions Paris Saint Germain which will see their coach, Thomas Tuchel, return to the Westfalenstadion.

Lionel Messi's Barcelona will face Italian side Napoli while Lyon will hope to upset Cristiano Ronaldo's Juventus.

Atalanta, which has reached the Last 16 in its debut Champions League season, will play Spanish side Valencia.

Full draw: Borussia Dortmund vs PSG; Real Madrid vs Manchester City; Atalanta vs Valencia; Atletico Madrid vs Liverpool; Chelsea vs Bayern Munich; Lyon vs Juventus; Tottenham vs RB Leipzig; and Napoli vs Barcelona.



Cole arrives with old placard of Yanks fealty

NEW YORK (AP)—On his first day in pinstripes, Gerrit Cole admitted to stealing a sign—no, not those signs.

Cole affixed his signature to a record \$324 million, nine-year contract at 10:45 a.m., walked into a news conference at Yankee Stadium and pulled out the crinkled placard he took to one of New York's World Series games at Arizona in 2001. A newspaper photo from Game 6 or 7 shows the 11-year-old holding the sign reading: "Yankee Fan Today Tomorrow Forever." Cole brought the banner to the Bronx, its letters no longer blue but now tan.

"I'd like to start with something that's pretty special to my heart," he said, pulling out the sign in a stroke of showmanship that would have made George Steinbrenner proud. "I'd just like to say, I'm here. I've always been here."

Cole held up the sign of fealty with Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner—George's son—and admitted he didn't make the poster but was gifted it from other fans who had brought it to an earlier Series game. They gave it to him at the Ritz-Carlton in Phoenix, where Cole stayed with his family, along with the Yankees.

"I had it on my wall for a few years and I think that's why it faded, and I tucked it in my closet," Cole said. "My folks brought it down. I think after we came to terms."

Now he'll have a chance to pitch the Yankees to their 28th World Series title, their first since 2009.

"We need to win some world championships," Steinbrenner said. "Plural."

Cole spurned the Yankees when they drafted him 28th overall in 2008, choosing to enroll at UCLA. He signed with Pittsburgh three years later after he was the No. 1 pick in the nation.

Now as a free agent, he finally was fitted for pinstripes.

His deal pays \$36 million annually and while he can opt out after the fifth season, the Yankees would have two days to block the opt out by adding a 10th season at \$36 million.

"It was my dream. I had a second opportunity to chase it," Cole said. "Some people don't quite take the word 'no' as well as these guys did. And I would say that it paid off, that's for sure."

While he grew up in southern California, Cole became a Yankees fan because his father rooted for them.

"It's hard not to fall in love with the Yankees from like '94 to 2002," he said. "What a franchise of tradition and



success and championships. And it kind of embodies the true American dream."

Cole pitched for the Pirates from 2013-17, then was traded to Houston. He spent two

seasons with the Astros, coming within one win of a World Series title this year. Cole

maintained he has not been questioned by Major League Baseball in its investigation

AP
New York Yankees manager Aaron Boone, left, and pitcher Gerrit Cole hold up a jersey as Cole is introduced as the baseball club's newest player during a media availability, Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2019 in New York.

of allegations the Astros used electronics to steal signs in 2017 and perhaps later years.

"I did not see anything, anything illegal in any way," he said.

Cole put on a No. 45 jersey, the number that had belonged to Luke Voit, who is switching to 59 to honor the number his brother John wore as Army football captain; Cole wants to wait for the first baseman's permission to disclose the pitcher's obligation in the transaction.

To comply with Yankees team rules, the 29-year-old right-hander's beard was newly shorn.

"He cleans up nice, doesn't he?" Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.

Cole had been known for a scruffy look going back to his college days. Davey Castillo, a barber who is friends with Yankees equipment manager Rob Cucuzza, went to Cole's room at the Mandarin Oriental hotel Wednesday morning to apply a shave.

"I've experienced razor burn now for the first time," Cole said.

When the Yankees sent a delegation to meet with Cole and his wife Amy (a sister of San Francisco shortstop Brandon Crawford) on Dec. 3 in Newport Beach, California, they brought along a gold-colored home plate that was embroidered in pinstripes and contained an iPad with information about the organization, housing in the New York area and personal messages from players and executives.

Boone brought along bottles of 2004 and 2005 Masseto, a Tuscan wine of Merlot grapes that sells for \$700-\$900 per bottle.

"I remember trying to stay focused in the meeting, obviously, not think about booze the entire time," Cole said, dropping in a few profanities. "When I came home, I was trying to grind it, I was telling Amy, how did they pull that off? I mean, there are not very many people in the world that know that that's like my favorite wine."

Then he woke up and shouted "Lou!"

Cole once told Lou Cucuzza Jr., the Yankees' director of clubhouse operations, he had 2004 Masseto at an anniversary dinner in a cellar in Florence, Italy.

Red Sox, Yankees, and Cubs sent 2019 luxury tax bills

NEW YORK (AP)—Boston will pay a Red Sox record \$13.4 million luxury tax after failing to make the playoffs and the New York Yankees finished with a \$6.7 million bill, likely a fraction of what they will pay next year.

Three teams owe tax, according to end-of-year figures sent to clubs Wednesday and obtained by The Associated Press. The Chicago Cubs must pay \$7.6 million following a season that ended with a September fade and no postseason berth.

New York has run up a total of \$348 million in tax since the payroll restraint system began in 2003, owing money in each year except 2018. The Los Angeles Dodgers are second at \$150 million, followed by the Red Sox at \$50 million and the Cubs at \$11 million.

This year's initial tax threshold was \$206 million, counting payrolls by average annual values and including earned bonuses, adjustments for cash transactions, option buyouts and just over \$14 million per team in benefits.

Among regular payrolls, which include salaries, prorated shares of signing bonuses and earned bonuses, the Red

Sox topped the major leagues for the second straight season at \$228 million. The Yankees were next at \$226 million, followed by the Cubs (\$220 million), World Series champion Washington (\$205 million) and the Los Angeles Dodgers (\$205 million).

Five of the top 10 spenders missed the playoffs, with the Red Sox and Cubs joined by San Francisco (\$183 million), the Los Angeles Angels (\$166 million) and Philadelphia (\$161 million).

Just two teams from the dozen lowest payrolls reached the postseason. Tampa Bay (last at \$67 million) defeated Oakland (26th at \$96 million) in the AL wild-card game, then lost to Houston in a five-game Division Series.

Overall spending on regular payrolls dropped for the third straight year, an aberration caused by large signing bonuses for Mike Trout, Alex Bregman, Jacob deGrom, Paul Goldschmidt, Clayton Kershaw, Manny Machado and A.J. Pollock. Those bonuses are prorated over the length of each contract, and payrolls totaled \$4.219 billion, down from \$4.227 billion in 2018 and \$4.245 billion in 2017.

But teams set a record at \$4.7 billion in the computation by average annual values, an increase of \$157 million that follows the longer-term trend. That came after an off-season when the clubs committed \$3.88 billion in guaranteed money, their biggest spending spree ever. Atlanta, Cincinnati, Colorado, Houston, Milwaukee, Oakland, San Diego and St. Louis had their highest AAV payrolls.

Among regular payrolls, which better display year-to-year shifts, Detroit dropped from \$191 million in 2017 to \$133 million in 2018 to \$117 million this year. Baltimore cut from \$167 million in 2017 to \$137 million in 2018 to \$83 million this year.

Toronto fell from \$165 million in 2017 to \$157 million in 2018 to \$120 million this year, and Kansas City from \$154 million in 2017 to \$127 million in 2018 to \$102 million this season. Under new CEO Derek Jeter, Miami shaved from \$117 million in 2017 to \$90 million in 2018 to \$76 million this year.

Big one-season drops this year included San Francisco (\$27 million), and Arizona, Cleveland and Seattle (\$23 million each).

Large rises were headed by Philadelphia, up \$54 million to \$161 million, and the Yankees, who rose by \$43 million. New York dropped to sixth in 2018, rose to second this year and figures to lead the major leagues next year after reaching a record \$324 million, nine-year contract with pitcher Gerrit Cole.

Other teams with significant hikes included Cincinnati (\$34 million), the Chicago White Sox (\$26 million), Milwaukee (\$25 million), the Chicago Cubs (\$22 million) and World Series champion Washington (\$21 million).

Showing a wide disparity, the top 50 players averaged \$24.1 million while the listed major league salary of the roughly other 1,500 players who spent at least one day on a big league roster this year averaged \$2.4 million.

Next year's tax starts at \$208 million, and New York's rate will rise from 20% to 30% on the first \$20 million over, 32% to 42% on the next \$20 million and 62.5% to 75% on any amount above \$248 million. If the Yankees exceed \$248 million, which now appears likely, their top selection in the June 2021 amateur draft would be dropped 10 places.

Beckham ends drama, stays with Browns



BEREA, Ohio (AP)—Odell Beckham Jr. dramatically ended the drama.

He's not leaving the Browns. Not now anyway.

Tired about speculation over his future, the flashy wide

receiver emphatically said Wednesday he's not looking to get out of Cleveland after just one frustrating season.

After reports over the past several weeks saying he was unhappy and had been telling other teams to "come get me" during games, Beckham stopped the conjecture by insisting that he's committed to helping the Browns win.

"It's done. It's over with," Beckham said to reporters. "I'm not going anywhere. I'll be here. We're going to figure this thing out. It's just too special to leave."

Beckham's first season with the Browns (6-8) hasn't gone the way anyone expected.

The three-time Pro Bowler isn't delivering the kind of big plays -- he has just two touchdown catches--that made him a household name in New York as one of the NFL's most dynamic players. He hasn't developed chemistry with quarterback Baker Mayfield. And he has played with a sports hernia all season.

There have been numerous other off-the-field distractions

that have prevented Mayfield and the Browns from fulfilling expectations.

But although the losing has taken a toll on Beckham, he's not giving up on playing alongside close friend and former LSU teammate Jarvis Landry, and he remains convinced Cleveland has the pieces to be a Super Bowl contender.

"Yeah, we are going to be here," he said when asked if he'll be with the Browns next season. "We are going to do it again and we are going to be what we felt like we should have been, correct all the little mistakes and all the 'if we would have did this' games. It is just too good. I did not buy a house here to sell it."

"I know people have said 'I did not sign him to trade him' before, but I did not really buy a house here to up and leave it and do renovations on a house and build a doghouse."

Reports have emerged saying Beckham asked other players to get him out of Cleveland. He chalked those up to him being a convenient target.

"It's just easy to talk about. It's a cop-out," he said. "It's an easy thing to do and cause a little controversy and a little friction and I feel like with my experiences in the league, and kind of going through the troubles that I did, it will never bother me, it's never going to affect me, but it will cause a little friction between you and a teammate who doesn't necessarily know what it is you're thinking so."

"It's just done. It's time to just put it to bed. I'm going to be here. ... I didn't buy a house here to sell it."

Beckham was in a jovial mode when he met with reporters. He began his interview session by joking that he had had "great conversations" with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and Toronto Argonauts of the CFL about possibly joining them.

The 27-year-old Beckham, who is under contract through 2023, said he felt the need to quash the rumblings about his plans because they were having a negative effect on the Browns. He said his words

have been twisted.

"It was starting to get out of hand," he said. "Like when I come up here, answer and say I do not know my future, we take it and it is like, 'Oh well he did not say. What did he not say?' Stop trying to listen too deeply on what is being said and take the message for what it was. I do not know the future. I do not know if we are going to be alive next year. I do not know what is going to happen. I don't predict the future."

Landry, too, tried to set the record straight after a report that said he told Arizona Cardinals players to "come get me" during Cleveland 38-24 loss on Sunday.

"I would never say nothing like that," said Landry, who was named to his fifth Pro Bowl. "I think that the passion and the team I play for, they trust and know my heart and know that I'm in this and I would never look to another team during a game, especially that we're losing and say 'come get me' with a worse record than we have."

CHAVEZ

From Page 36

Marron presenting the medals to the winners.

Gozum took the Golden Boot award in the Masters Division after bagging 16 goals. She was the only player in the division to score goals in twin digits as second placer Manami Manglona of Kanoa Football Club only managed to notch seven goals. TanHoldings' Eunnie Benavente and Paire Football Club's Natalie Hill-Beyer had six each, while MP United's

Laami Zapanta, Matansa's Bunruang Brasuel, and Paire's Lindsay Davis collected five apiece to round out the Top 5. Elna Curate received the award on behalf of Gozum.

Deleon Guerrero personally received the Golden Boot award in Division B, getting the recognition after delivering 16 goals this season. She won over teammate Nathanette Blas, who bagged 12, while TanHoldings' Rizza Relucio (9) and Julie Anna Capayas (8) and Southern United's Erin Frink (8) completed the Top 5.

JSN

From Page 36

withstand Old Iskool's rally in the fourth. Bernard Montano and James Abuy teamed up in a bid to bring Old Iskool back into the game with the former drilling 10 points and the latter knocking in two triples. However, Santos, Alipio, and John Gatdula hit timely baskets to keep JSN's distance in the fourth canto en route to their 6-point winning margin.

Alegre paced JSN with his 15 points, while Santos also finished in twin digits with his 13. Randy Mungcal and Gatdula added 11 and 10,

respectively, while Alipio made all his 9 markers in the second half.

Abuy led Old Iskool with his 15 points, while Ed Pangelinan and Montano registered 14 and 12, respectively.

JSN 83—Alegre 15, Santos 13, Mungcal 11, Gatdula 10, Alipio 9, Tabora 8, Jabar 6, Ocampo 6, Wesley 3, Tobias 2.

Old Iskool 77—Abuy 15, Pangelinan 14, Montano 12, De Guzman 8, Cosino 8, Grumpula 6, Camacho 4, Bartolo 3, Pablo 3, Manabat 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-16, 33-33, 63-52, 83-77.

Agape to host volleyball tournament

Agape Christian School will hold the Agape Christmas Volleyball Tournament from Dec. 26 to 28 at the Agape Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The tournament will feature men's and women's competitions. Entrance fee is \$100 per team of nine players (maximum). Inter-

ested squads have until this Saturday to turn in registration forms and entrance fees. Team captains or representative of participating squads

are asked to attend a meeting, also this Saturday, at 7pm at the Agape Gym.

For more information, contact En Yang Pang at 989-6615. (PR)

CRUZ

From Page 36

way taller and stronger than me and I did my best to keep up with them. One coach even told my uncle I was not good enough to be on the team," said Cruz, who is on Saipan to pay his last respects to his late dad, Joseph.

"But then, I remember the people back home, who used to tell me I could not make it to a college team, that there's no chance I could become a pro. I want to prove them wrong. I know I belong here, so I challenged myself to persevere, work hard every game, and just focus on my dream," said Cruz.

The former CNMI player eventually earned his slot on the roster of Rizal Technological University, which ruled a collegiate league in 2010 and was runner-up in 2011. Cruz turned doubters into believers when he made it to the Mythical Team during the 2011 season of the National Capital Region Athletic Association and the following year, he jumped to the bigger and more prestigious University Athletic Association of the Philippines.

In the UAAP, Cruz played for the Adamson Falcons for two seasons and he was



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, Jericho Cruz receives his regular season and Finals MVP prizes from organizers of the 2009 Budweiser Tinian Dynasty Invitational Inter-Hotel Basketball League after leading Hyatt Regency Saipan to a 97-86 win over Saipan World Resort.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jericho Cruz, front row second left, is joined in the photo by CNMI players and coaches after a pick-up game at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium yesterday.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jericho Cruz poses for a photo for *Saipan Tribune* after having lunch with his family in Garapan.

one of the key players on the team. From UAAP, he played for Blackwater in the PBA D-League and helped bring the squad to the finals, making him ripe for the PBA Rookie Draft in 2014.

"Coach Leo (Austria of San Miguel and Cruz's coach at Adamson) told me it's time, so I took the plunge, but I was not expecting to be drafted that early. When my name was called as the No. 9 overall pick

(by Rain or Shine), I could not believe I got picked, I was so nervous and it took some time before reality hit me," the father of two said.

The baller from the tiny island of Saipan was regarded by PBA experts as the "steal" in the draft and Cruz did not disappoint when he made it to the league's All-Rookie Team. He also rose to become one of the key players of Rain or Shine and helped the squad

win the 2016 Commissioner's Cup. That same year, Cruz was named the Most Improved Player and got the PBA Mr. Quality Minutes award, too. Also in 2016 and in the next two seasons, he was selected to play in the PBA All-Stars. From Rain or Shine, he made a stop to Talk N Text before being shipped to NLEX where he just signed a two-year maximum contract worth around \$200,000.

"I feel beyond blessed to make it this far and I would like to thank my family and the people who helped me get here. Thank you to the coaches on Saipan that I worked with for giving me the foundation. They played a big part in my journey," Cruz said.

While on his short visit on island, Cruz said he plans to check with old friends and teammates and meet with some youth players.

"I know we have a lot of young players here and I hope I could meet some of them. I know they have the potential and they just have to keep working and go out of their comfort zone to realize their dream. If a Jericho Cruz could make it, they could, too. They just have to go out there, explore, and see what life has to offer them," Cruz said.



New Big
3 leads
Celtics past
Mavericks

PAGE 33

Saipan Tribune Sports

Cole arrives
with old
placard of
Yanks fealty

PAGE 34



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

36 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2019

Cruz turns doubters into believers



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former CNMI National Team player turned pro Jericho Cruz is back on island and recalled his humble beginnings here and the challenges he faced and the people who helped him get to where he is now.



"I started playing when I was in grade school. I think, I was in fifth grade and then I played for coach Jose [Tumaquip] and the G-Stars," said Cruz, who is on his fifth year with Asia's first pro league—the Philippine Basketball Association—and plays for the NLEX Road Warriors.

From the G-Stars, Cruz suited up for Marianas High School in the then Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization League while also seeing action in various local tournaments (inter-hotel, inter-village, Mobil, and Rotary youth). He eventually made it

to the CNMI Men's National Team that played in the 2009 FIBA Oceania Tournament held on Saipan and the 2010

Micronesian Games in Palau.

He was already in the Philippines, trying his luck in the collegiate ranks, when he returned to Saipan to don the colors of the Commonwealth in 2010 and the 6'1" guard admitted having the toughest struggle when he was hoping to play college ball.

"At one point, I thought of just returning home or going to the states to get a job because it was really tough competing for slots on a college team. I practiced with guys who are

See CRUZ on Page 35



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

JSN's Randy Mungcal takes an open jumper during an earlier game against Saipan Vegas in the Masters Division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Chavez leads Golden Boot awardees

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dove Tan Holdings Football Club's Kaithlyn Chavez recorded the most goals (21) in the 2019 Dove Women's Fall League to earn the Golden Boot award in Division A of the competition.

Chavez scored in all six games of TanHoldings in the regular season, posting her best offensive game (6 goals) last Nov. 29 when they defeated Paire Football Club. The TanHoldings striker finished way ahead of Kanoa's Irish Pagarao in the Golden Boot race, as the latter registered only 13 goals. TanHoldings' Katrina Costales, Matansa's Jannah Casarino, and Kanoa's



Paulynn Joyce placed third in the contest after collecting nine goals apiece.

Chavez and the two other Golden Boot awardees—Matansa's Ivann Gozum and Southern United's Keisha Deleon Guerrero—were recognized during the 2019 Dove Women's Fall League's awards ceremony with Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan and D&Q Saipan regional sales manager Marilyn

See CHAVEZ on Page 35

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
TanHoldings Football Club's Kaithlyn Chavez, right, tries to beat Kanoa Football Club's Sharmaine Francisco to the ball during their title game in Division A of the 2019 Dove Women's Fall League last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

JSN notches second straight win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JSN made it back-to-back in the Masters Division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League after edging Old Iskool, 83-77, last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

JSN, which dropped its debut (against Blue Haus) before getting its first win in the season versus Saipan Vegas, leaned on its 30-point explosion in the third period to beat Old Iskool and bag its second straight victory.

The third canto that started in a deadlock, 33-all, ended

with JSN holding a promising 63-52 advantage after outgunning Old Iskool in the penultimate frame.

Ron Alegre anchored JSN's third-quarter assault after delivering 10 points and he drew enough support from his teammates to break the standoff and give their squad a double-digit lead going into the final canto. Edwin Santos chipped in 7 markers in the pivotal third period, while Jun Jabar added 6, and Jun Alipio contributed 5.

The 11-point lead in the third frame allowed JSN to

See JSN on Page 35

